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ON THE COVER: Knit cotton bodysuit, **Bottega Veneta**. Canvas kimono coat, mesh skirt; both **Kenzo**. Gold and diamond earrings, bracelet, ring; all **Nirav Modi**
PHOTOGRAPHS: **R BURMAN**
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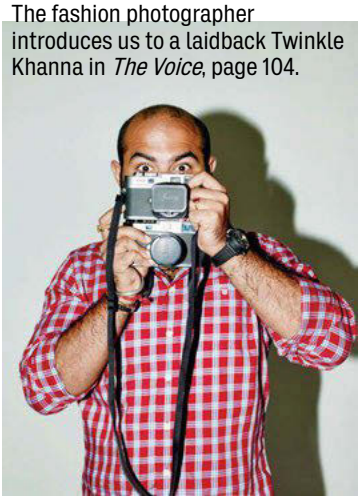
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ELLE VOICES

JULY 2015

R BURMAN

The fashion photographer introduces us to a laidback Twinkle Khanna in *The Voice*, page 104.



"The idea of the shoot was to capture [Twinkle] Khanna like we've never seen her before — undone and anti-glam."

DEEPA VERMA

The make-up and hair artist experiments with an Oriental palette in *Tokyo Drift*, page 112.

"The look was inspired by a modern Japanese geisha, and [the model] Mariia carried it with such grace."





SABA IMTIAZ

The journalist and author puts organising guru Marie Kondo's method to the test in *Space Out*, page 86.

"I was knee-deep in clothes and papers and garbage bags while I used the KonMari method to simplify my life. I don't think any story has transformed such a significant part of my life. I realised that I had been holding onto mountains of useless stuff and memories."

@SABAIMTIAZ

KARAN BAJAJ

The Indian-American author chronicles his year-long sabbatical from a life of privilege in *The Far Side*, page 180.

"The most interesting thing I learnt from quitting my job is that if your intentions are pure when you quit, you'll re-enter in a better way. I actually progressed faster up the corporate ladder than ever before because I had become calmer and more selfless."

@REALKARANBAJAJ





TISHANI DOSHI

The writer and poet discusses women, identity and good hate with author Hanif Kureishi in *Love Bug*, page 82.

"When I asked for sex writing tips, Kureishi said, 'What a question!' As if he'd never written about sex. But then he said something interesting: 'It's pointless to write about people copulating. What you write about is people's minds and how the copulation changes them'."



PETER D'ASCOLI

The artist and designer conceptualises a dramatic Japanese-inspired set in *Tokyo Drift*, page 112.

"The inspiration for the shoot was Japonisme, the French word first used in 1872 to describe the huge influence Japanese art was having on the European aesthetic."

@PETERDASCOLI

TARUN VISHWA (DEEPA VERMA)


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sabyasachi.com
Location courtesy: TAJ FALAKNUMA

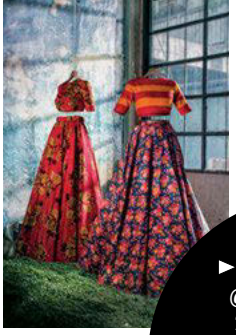
ELLE TWEETS
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Praatika Mehra
@praasays
@ELLEINDIA is killing it with its Instagram feed! Bravo for the tasteful visuals and relevant content!

PlaidItWellStyleBlog
@sarthakraswant
Can not get over how beautiful @ELLEINDIA's #UnGender editorial was! The photos, the styling and obviously the theme! Wow.

Bhuvanashankar
@fernwehsoul
@ELLEINDIA Closet ties is such a warm read





Diya Erica Basu
@ericadiyabasu
2 of my all-time favourites @ELLEINDIA @sabya_mukherjee on d same page - can vicariously enjoy 1 because of d other



Mitesh Rajani
@mitesh784
Stunning #kiranrao in @rinasingh09 for @ELLEINDIA this month ... @rinasingh09 has stunning clothes



ELLE MAIL
Got something to say about the issue (or life in general)? E-mail us at ellemail@ogaan.co.in

NEW LOOK
Designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee's insightful observations and understanding of women's fashion in *Forever Young* has instilled a tremendous confidence in me to revamp my wardrobe, try out new styles, do away with the age-old ideas and embrace new looks with élan!

SHARADA IYER, MUMBAI

CYBER WATCH
Even though I'm not being bullied online, reading *Net Worth* made me realise the vulnerability of an online presence. It was such an informative piece and it has made me err on the side of caution.

SHIKHA BANSAL, CHANDIGARH

CRASH COURSE
Four weeks to get bikini ready? Yes, please! *Suit Up* is going to be my guide to get my post-maternity body in shape.

VINITA SHARMA, NEW DELHI

SHELF LIFE
I especially loved *Closet Ties* because of the touching stories from the wardrobes of the women featured. The piece tapped emotional threads that bind our precariously remembered pasts and made me revisit my grandmother's uncut diamond bangles that I will pass on to my daughter someday.

NANCY DAURKA, NEW DELHI

FLASH FICTION
Amidst all the fashion advice, *ELLE Book Club* comes as a bonus and a welcome addition. I've used the summer reads suggested to plan a blissfully long book fest, to help me beat the heat and madness.

KS SIDDHANTH, MUMBAI

FIVE LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST ISSUE WILL WIN A GIFT FROM DKNY READE COLLECTION

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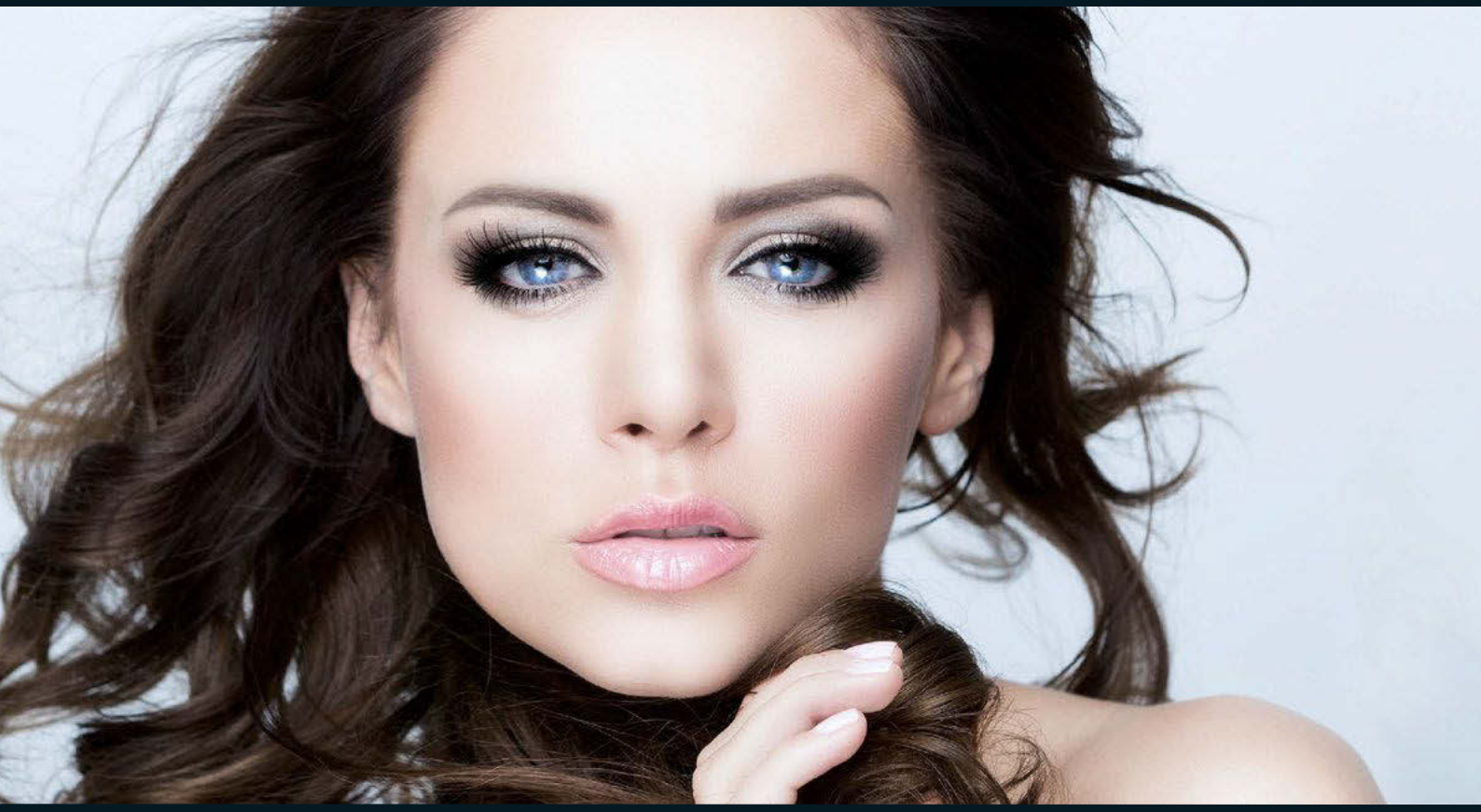
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ELLE JULY

EDITOR'S LETTER



AISHWARYA SUBRAMANYAM,
EDITOR
editor@ogaan.co.in
@OTHERWARYA

Twinkle Khanna really is as funny as she seems on your Twitter timeline. She leaves no joke unquipped, holds back zero zingers and doesn't seem to understand what all the fuss is about and why everyone's suddenly so taken with her. Our cover star has emerged, fully formed it seems, as a sharp social commentator who has opinions on everything (a quality we love), and nothing to lose. With a book out next month, Khanna has literally created a new narrative for herself, and as she tells deputy editor Cheryl-Ann Couto, has almost realised her life goal of "moving to Goa, having white hair, short nails, trying mind-altering substances and writing." Almost.

This is also our luxury issue, which is kind of the perfect excuse to look at shiny things. Diamonds upon diamonds, necklaces to make you feel like royalty, intricate gold jewellery that's difficult to resist — there's so much to pick from, and our wallets are so light. But sparkles aside, we also wanted to explore what luxury really means today. Is it about finding the time to do the things you love? Read *The Far Side* to learn what it's like to drastically interrupt a very successful life to reconnect with one's self. Is it about getting a good night's sleep, every night? Read *Snooze Fest* to find out how to get your eight hours, and what happens when you don't. Is it about living light, decluttering and surrounding yourself only with things that bring you joy? Read *Space Out* and take cues from Marie Kondo's phenomenal bestseller, *The Life-Changing Magic Of Tidying Up*, and consider whether you own your stuff or your stuff owns you.

Plus: This month's ELLE Book Club features literary bad boy Hanif Kureishi, who talks about his new book, truth and fiction, and what makes art; we round up minimally invasive treatments for those of you who don't want to go under the knife but would like a bit of a beauty lift; designer Eddie Borgo introduces us to his hot new handbag line; and we take you down the rabbit hole with a wondrous new exhibition by Hermès.



I once wrote an article, a few years ago, about what it's like to be a big (fat) girl in fashion. My experience has been a mostly positive one, you see, which is perhaps not entirely common in an industry known to be just a tad bit unforgiving of size. So it was with much pleasure that I read *Big Shot* by British ELLE's Billie Bhatia, who faced her own demons, both within and without (catty aunties alert) to carve out a space for herself in fashion.

Reading, I think, is my greatest luxury. What's yours?



R BURMAN (TWINKLE KHANNA), KEEGAN CRASTO (AISHWARYA SUBRAMANYAM)

TWINKLE KHANNA

Bollywood's sweetheart, design aficionado and writer, 'Mrs Funnybones' graces our cover in fresh pastels

1

Sparkling diamond jewels on soft pink made for an instant posh update.

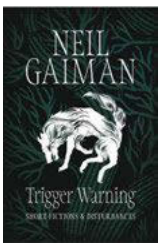


'Luminance' ring and bracelet; both **Nirav Modi**

2

Coldplay: 'Swallowed in the Sea'
Damien Rice: 'The Blower's Daughter'
Simon & Garfunkel: 'Cecilia'

3



As a writer, Khanna's night stand is stacked with books. Her favourite author of all time – Neil Gaiman.

4



Wondering where we shot the story? A quirky little boutique hotel called Abode, with tiled floors perfect for that #floorselfie.

5





Our cover star believes in taking a break every month. Her latest holiday — Antibes, in the South of France. A quick look at her Instagram and you'll spot one exotic location after another.

6



She let us in on her secret to looking so damn good: Patanjali yoga. For her, it's the closest thing to spirituality in her daily routine.

7





The beauty board: Minimal make-up highlighted Khanna's natural freckles, while just a dab of pink on the lips and cheeks made her photo ready. For her fiery auburn hair, a faux shaggy bob added an out-of-bed look.

8

Mellow hues like lemon, rose and greige, relaxed outerwear and swishy full skirts filled up the shoot rack.

9



10





Khanna loves all things architecture and design. Her favourite destinations: Barcelona for Gaudí's creations and Paris for modern art. She never misses Maison&Objet art fairs.



The team is all smiles at the end of the shoot.

IMAXTREE.COM/ALESSANDRO LUCIONI (RUNWAY); INPUTS FROM AKANKSHA KAMATH



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ELLE BLOG



BURRRN
Twinkle Khanna's funny bones are sharp. Laugh along at her best zingers on ELLE.in/twinklekhanna



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CULTURE

THE LUXE LIST
We round up 10 websites to help you live a more luxurious, stress-free life



FASHION



LUXE FOR LESS
15 high-street buys that look like a million bucks

R BURMAN (TWINKLE KHANNA); RAM SHERGILL (KIRAN KANDOLA); MANASI SAWANT (STREET STYLE)

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ELLE EDITS

TOP TRENDS, MUST-HAVE PIECES & STYLE UPDATES



Our luxury special will help you find the perfect statement pieces for your jewellery box — choose from floral jewels, baroque chokers, baguette diamonds and pink gems. Plus, stock up on luxe essentials

Tulle and canvas dress, price on request, **Bottega Veneta**. Chiffon kimono, ₹ 9,500, **Lovebirds**. Diamond earrings, ₹ 6,80,000; diamond ring, ₹ 4,80,000, diamond floral ring, ₹ 1,25,000; all **Zoya – A TATA Product**

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; MODEL: SHANALI/ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT

FOR DETAILS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK

Smart moves

We've shortlisted the best ***luxury buys*** for you, which will last for seasons to come

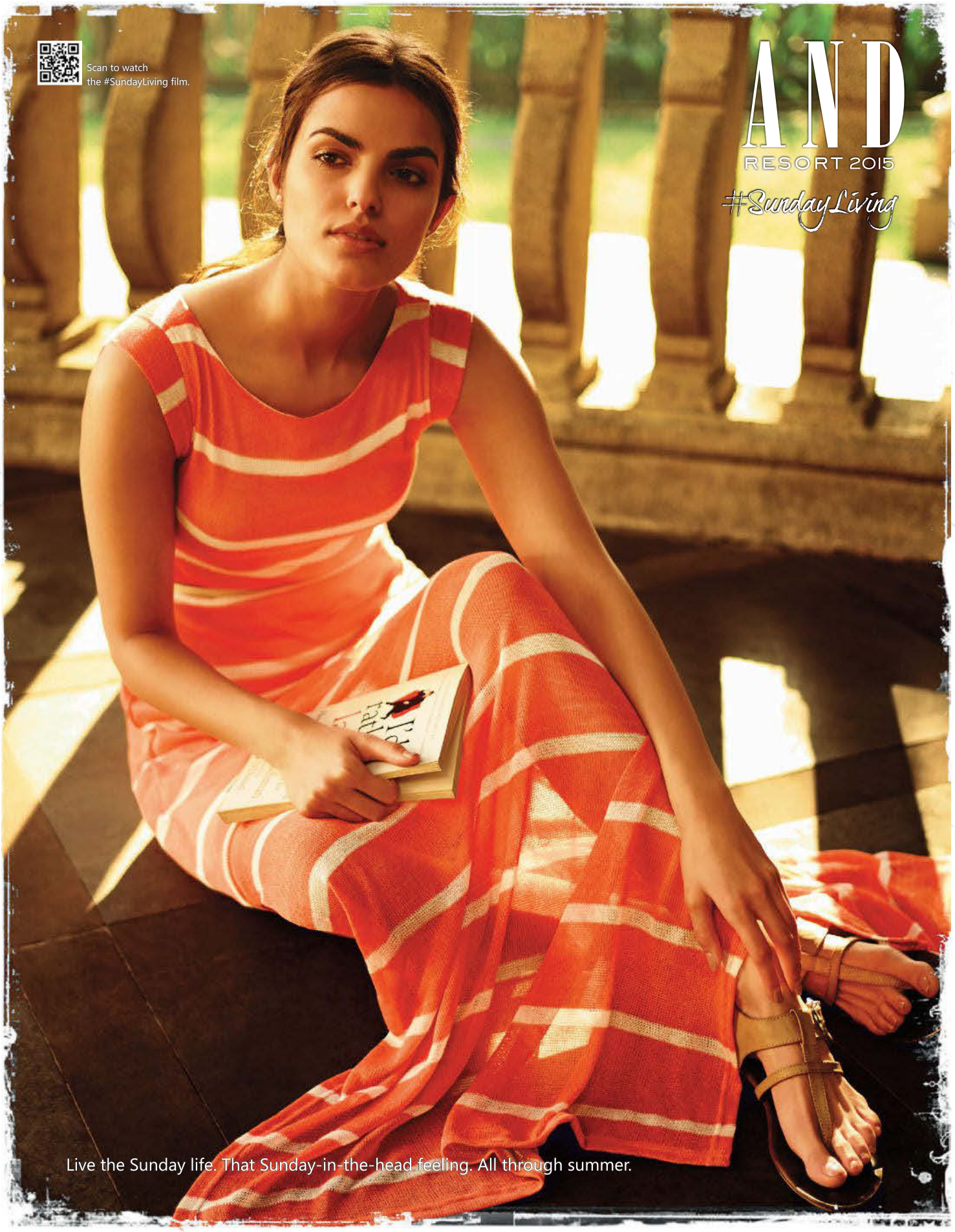


'70S-STYLE PLATFORMS

Gladiator straps-meets-chunky platforms! Strong, sexy and sturdy! That's enough trends to last you a lifetime.

Cotton bralet, ₹ 4,900, **Nishka Lulla**. Mesh dress, ₹ 15,500, **Dhruv Kapoor**. Cotton skirt, ₹ 9,450, **Rohit Gandhi + Rahul Khanna**. Leather strap watch, ₹ 27,900, **Swarovski**. Leather sandals, price on request, **Tom Ford**

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; MODEL: SHANALI/ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT


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MIRRORED SUNNIES

Dior's reflective sunglasses are guaranteed to get you snapped. Regardless of the season.

PVC corded jacket, price on request, **Lecoanet Hemant**. Wool-crêpe trousers, ₹ 18,000, **DRVV** by **Dhruv Kapur**. Acetate and metal sunglasses, price on request, **Dior**. Gemfields Zambian emerald earring, price on request, **Jet Gems**, using **Gemfields**



PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; MODEL: SHANALI/ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT

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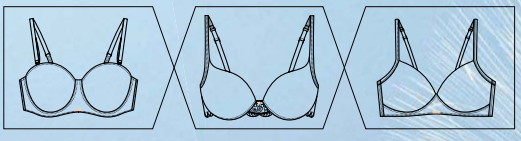
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LEATHER SATCHEL

This menswear-inspired bag in tough brown leather is just what's needed to say you mean business.

Pleated georgette blouse, ₹ 9,800, **Payal Khandwala**. Pleated georgette trousers, ₹ 6,995, **Kiran Uttam Ghosh**. Diamond and quartz necklace, price on request, **Ganjam**. Leather clutch bag, ₹ 64,353, **Michael Kors**

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; MODEL: SHANALI/ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT


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POSH SLIDES

All the comfort of pool-side footwear, but luxe enough for you to take to work.

Silk shirt, ₹ 15,800, **11.11/eleven eleven**. Georgette shorts, ₹ 7,500, **Nishka Lulla**. Leather slides, ₹ 37,405, **Kenzo**. Diamond and sapphire earrings, price on request, **Renu Oberoi** for **Mahesh Notandass Fine Jewellery**. Diamond ring, price on request, **Om Jewellers**

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; MODEL: SHANALI/ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT



CAMLA

AMBIENCE MALL, GURGAON



MICRO BAGS

These bite-sized bags are trumping the popularity charts with their cuteness. Need to carry more than your plastic, phone and lipstick? Invest in more than one!

Denim dress, ₹ 25,697, **Kenzo** at ***Thecorner.com***. Diamond earrings, price on request, **Ghanasingh Be True**. Leather and diamond watch, ₹ 3,25,000, **Dior**. Diamond and emerald bracelet, price on request, **Jet Gems**, using **Gemfields**. Leather micro bags, ₹ 75,637 each, 'Karlito' bag charm, ₹ 78,566; all **Fendi**

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; MODEL: SHANALI/ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT


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Flower girl

Cherry blossom hues are here to stay

Inspired by Sakura season, diamonds and rubies glitter in blush tones. Intricately worked and delicately set, these jewels remind us of a cherry blossom tree in full bloom.

ALL PRICES ON REQUEST

ELLE INSIDER
Tokyo dreaming? Pick up travel tips from our favourite celebs at ELLE.in/japan

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING: NEHA SALVI


AMY ADAMS


ANGELINA JOLIE-PITT


PRINCESS DIANA

Gold, diamond and pearl studs, price on request, **Jaipur Jewels**





Gold and diamond brooch, price on request, **Bulgari**

Clear cut

The classic ***baguette*** diamond is fast climbing our list of jewels to own now

Channel old-Hollywood glamour by dousing yourself in diamonds — just make sure they're baguette cuts. The sophisticated style has always been Marilyn Monroe and Princess Diana's favourite and now, its easy minimalism can be found on the red carpet, too. Choose from a sleek bracelet or intricate leaf-shaped earrings — baguettes are the best way to add sleek sparkle.



Gold and diamond chandelier earrings, price on request, **Narayan Jewellers for Forevermark**


JOE DIMAGGIO AND MARILYN MONROE



Gold and diamond ring, price on request, **MBj**

Gold and diamond bracelet, price on request, **Farah Khan Fine Jewellery**





Gold and diamond pendant, price on request, **Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers**



Gold and diamond earrings, ₹ 5,46,477, **Anita Ko**

Gold and diamond studs, ₹ 79,956, ***Bluestone.com***



INPUTS FROM AKANKSHA KAMATH



Gold necklace with onyx, tourmaline and lapis, ₹ 6,50,000, **Popley & Sons**

Gold and pearl necklace, price on request, **Ganjam**

Gold and polki necklace, price on request, **Zoya - A TATA Product**

Brace yourself

Baroque chokers

will make you feel like royalty

Rustic gold, swirled motifs and drops of precious stones will take you right into the heart of old-world extravagance. Make these chokers modern by pairing with a basic black polo neck.

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING: AKANKSHA KAMATH

Pin point

Snap on a regal ***brooch*** for instant old-world charm

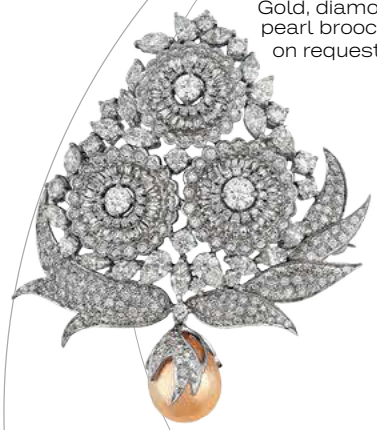




Gold, diamond, pearl and emerald brooch, price on request, **Jaipur Jewels**



Gold, diamond, and pearl brooch, price on request, **Orra**



For all the impact of a bejewelled piece with minimum fuss, try a royal-looking brooch, like Farah Khan Fine Jewellery's peacock motif. The addition of a ornate badge never gets old — look to Chanel's classic interlocked 'C's on a striped twin-set, or Oscar de la Renta's tulip set against gingham. Go on, put a pin on it!

Platinum, diamond, sapphire, and emerald brooch, price on request, **Cartier**





Gold, diamond, citirne and sapphire brooch, price on request, **Ghanasingh Be True**



Gold and diamond brooch, price on request, **Fabergé**



Gold, diamond and pearl brooch, price on request, **Dwarkadas Chandumal Jewellers**



Gold, diamond, sapphire and Tahitian pearl brooch, price on request, **Farah Khan Fine Jewellery**





'Balthus' brooch, ₹ 8,490, **Swarovski**





PHOTOGRAPHS: IMAXTREE.COM/ALESSANDRO LUCIONI (RUNWAY); INPUTS FROM AKANKSHA KAMATH

JEWELLERY & WATCHES
NATURE-INSPIRED

Garden state

Take your glittering accessories on a ***nature*** walk



1. Diamond ring, **Om Jewellers**
2. Diamond and precious stone earrings, **Mirari for Gemfields**
3. Diamond and sapphire ring, **Anmol Jewellers**
4. Diamond pendant, **Mahesh Notandass Fine Jewellery**
5. Sapphire and diamond necklace, **Ganjam**
6. Enamelled polki diamond earrings, **Entice**
7. 'Dragonfly' watch, **Titan Raga**
8. Diamond ring, **Farah Khan Fine Jewellery**
9. 'Dior VIII Montaigne' watch, **Dior**

Ganjam's gerbera necklace in orange sapphire, Entice's earrings that look like an exotic bouquet and Titan Raga's dragonfly bracelet-watch find common ground in nature, from bold blooms to butterflies.

ELLE SHOPS
Wardrobe looking bleak? Brighten it up with garden prints (on a budget) at ELLE.in/nature

ALL PRICES ON REQUEST

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING: NEHA SALVI


VERSACE

MARY KATRANTZOU


'Cate' hoop earrings, ₹ 4,990, **Swarovski**


Gold earrings, price on request, **Tanishq**


Gold and diamond bracelet, price on request, **ORRA**


Gold and diamond studs, price on request, **Zoya – A TATA Product**


DOLCE&GABBANA

Gold ring, price on request, **Manubhai Jewellers**




Gold bangle, ₹ 15,454, ***Caratlane.com***

Lace off

Paint a pretty picture in intricate ***filigree*** pieces

Noticed the cutworked garments doing multiple rounds on the runway? Imitate the trend in your jewels for double impact. Try the cross-hatched metal weaves of Dior or the dainty swirls of Alpana Gujral's chandelier earrings.


Gold and pearl earrings, price on request, **Alpana Gujral**


Gold and diamond cuff, price on request, **Dior**


TEMPERLEY LONDON

ERMANNO SCERVINO

PHOTOGRAPHS: IMAXTREE.COM/ALESSANDRO LUCIONI (RUNWAY); INPUTS FROM AKANKSHA KAMATH

Razzle dazzle

Your favourite extras get a generous helping of *sparkle*

We're taking a break from normcore basics for some OTT extras. Think crystallised stones that offset jet black, and lustrous box clutches that perfectly accompany little red dresses. Make sure you're doused in shiny, happy things on your way out.



Leather and crystal box clutch, price on request, **Sabyasachi**

Studded suede and acrylic box clutch, ₹ 17,500, **Furla**

Leather and crystal heels, ₹ 2,26,197, **Fendi**

ELLE SHOPS
Not quite a princess? Find sparkly pieces at bargain prices on ELLE.in/shinyhappy

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING: AKANKSHA KAMATH


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Soft swirl

A *scarf* a day keeps sartorial boredom away



Printed silk scarf, ₹ 21,075, **Anya Hindmarch** at ***Mytheresa.com***

Printed silk scarf, ₹ 1,045, **Shingora**

Slim silk scarf, price on request, **Gucci**

Silk scarf, ₹ 26,000, **Hermès**

Bad hair day? Fix it with a knotted turban. Can't find your leather belt? Loop a skinny stole through your trousers. Day bag needs a pick-me-up? A quirky print slung across it should do the trick. Silk scarves are basically style superheroes.

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT, STYLING: NEHA SALVI





Silk coat, ₹ 12,550, **Payal Pratap** at ***Perniaspopupshop.com***





Leather and acrylic appliqué bag, ₹ 1,05,533, **Simone Rocha**



Silk-blend blouse, ₹ 1,19,723, **Saint Laurent**

Under wraps

We're looking eastward, where ***Japanese*** dressing gets a modern do-over

Eastern inspiration was a running theme on the S/S 2015 runways. Céline's pantsuit rendition, Isabel Marant's monochrome super-cinched creation and Atsu's luxe lilac version were all hits. The best hack to get the look right: use an obi belt on boxy coats and finish off with flatforms.



Silk scarf, ₹ 40,712, **Alexander McQueen**

Knit belt, ₹ 42,356, **Marni**





Jacquard wraparound skirt, ₹ 40,586, **Maison Margiela**





Jacquard dress, ₹ 84,156, **Victoria Beckham**

Cotton-silk coat, ₹ 8,990, **Zara**





Silk coat, price on request, **Fendi**



Leather and rubber flatforms, ₹ 55,659, **N°21** at ***Net-a-porter.com***



ELLE PICKS
Need shoes to complete your Zen look? Find your flat fit at ELLE.in/flatforms

PHOTOGRAPHS: IMAXTREE.COM/ALESSANDRO LUCIONI, GULSHAN SACHDEVA (RUNWAY); INPUTS FROM AKANKSHA KAMATH

MUST-HAVE
RITU KUMAR ACCEESSORIES

Special additions

Ritu Kumar's extras for fall are all kinds of beautiful

With close to 100 different styles of embossed bags with leather trimmings, digitally printed scarves and a limited edition of footwear (in association with a.k.a Bespoke), the Fall/Winter 2015-16 line of Ritu Kumar accessories is all set to blow your mind. Staying true to its cultural aesthetic, the accessories reflect an eclectic mix of prints and fabrics in classic shapes and vibrant colours. If you're thinking of clashing your prints, you know where to head.



Silk scarf, ₹ 3,900, **Ritu Kumar**. Leather and canvas bag, ₹ 10,500, leather and canvas shoes, ₹ 7,900; both **Label Ritu Kumar**

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT, STYLING: NEHA SALVI

FASHION CAPSULE

Mallika Jain's retail exhibition offers new design talent a platform to showcase their work and discerning customers get to enjoy a day-long shopping extravaganza



HOW IT ALL STARTED

Mallika Jain introduced the first Fashion Capsule in Delhi in October 2013, and given the success of the first event, she continues to host these day-long shopping extravaganzas that bring together dozens of new and creative designer brands under one roof.

The last two editions, Fashion Capsule — Grandé 2015 and Fashion Capsule — Fleur de Spring were held in January and April 2015 at The Grand, New Delhi, and featured designers like Mandira Wirk, Soltee by Sulakshana Monga, Chhaya Mehrotra, Autre by Gautam Gupta, Nikhita Tandon, Saaj by Ankita, Pawan Sachdeva, Kylee by Ruchi Jain, and over 70 fashion and lifestyle brands.



GARMENTS BY PAWAN SACHDEVA AT FASHION CAPSULE



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Art history

Refined watchmaking meets *couture* to weave unforgettable stories

Timekeeping is a serious business, but these luxurious limited-edition pieces all have stories to tell, whether it's collaborating with the fine arts or depicting a historical event. Take a moment to listen...



1.

Note the signature skull made in intricate St. Gallen embroidery: it's all thanks to Hublot's collab with Bischoff — the Maison Suisse, to give the 'Big Bang' a feminine spin.



2.

The dial depicts a 16th-century Italian palace, complete with the famous Commedia dell'Arte performers.



3.

Did you notice something spectacular about the dial? Yes, it turns from a bright blue sky to a starry night.

Taking inspiration from Monsieur Dior's love for gardens, the latest timepiece is reminiscent of a frozen winter landscape.



4.

1. 'Big Bang Broderie', **Hublot**
2. 'Commedia Dell'Arte', **Bulgari**
3. 'Rêves De Panthères', **Cartier** 4. 'Dior VIII Grand Bal Piece Unique N°18', **Dior**
5. 'Slim d'Hermès Koma Kurabe', **Hermès** 6. 'Rendez-Vous Tourbillon Wild', **Jaeger LeCoultre** 7. 'Joaillerie Chevron Noire', **Louis Vuitton**

French porcelain and the Japanese art of Aka-e come together for the first time in watchmaking history, to recreate the traditional horse-racing scene of Koma Kurabe.



5.

You can spot Nicholas Ghesquière's 'V' motif as Louis Vuitton brings the wow from ramp to wrist.



7.



6.

Jaeger LeCoultre mixed major Art Deco vibes with the vibrant blues of the Royal Kingfisher.

ALL PRICES ON REQUEST

INPUTS FROM NEHA SALVI

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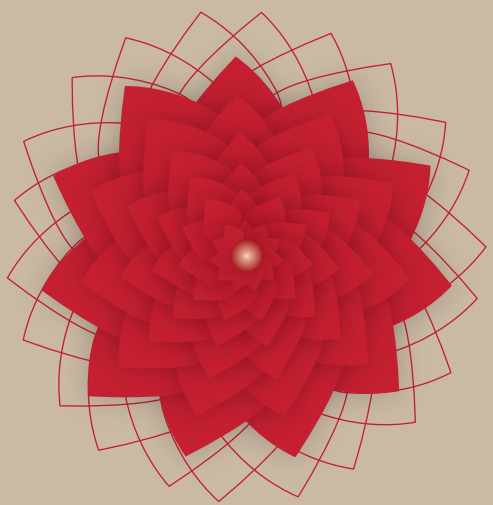
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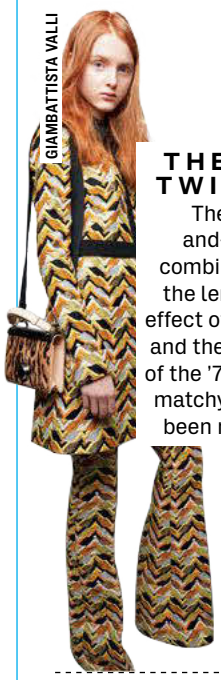
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The pre-fall cheat sheet

Presenting the need-to-know trends of the coolest season of them all


GIAMBATTISTA VALLI

THE NEW TWIN-SET

The tunic-and-trouser combination has the lengthening effect of a jumpsuit and the sensibility of the '70s. Matchy-matchy has never been more chic.


EMILIO PUCCI

THE ROW


GUCCI

EDUN


MAIYET


THAKOON


DSQUARED2

FRINGE BENEFITS

Tweed comes undone with frayed hemlines and tassels. Twirling compulsory.


BALENCIAGA

RETURN OF THE BROOCH

The accessory you never knew you needed is back, made official by Givenchy, Chanel and Balenciaga. Sorry for doubting you, grandma.


CHANEL

GIVENCHY


JW ANDERSON


BALENCIAGA


STELLA MCCARTNEY

GOLDEN LOBES

The reign of artwork as earrings continues — this season, most designers chose to work with metal and a moody muse.


THE ROW


PRABAL GURUNG

FENDI

IT'S A COVER-UP

Call it a drug-rug, poncho or blanket, but definitely call it a trend. Let us count the ways.


ACNE STUDIOS


3.1 PHILLIP LIM


VALENTINO


ZERO + MARIA CORNEJO


GUCCI


OSMAN

CLASH CULTURE

Spin the colour wheel and make a match — blue and green should always be seen when it looks this good. Even neutral campaigners, the Olsen twins, tried jewel tones at The Row.


THE ROW


BURBERRY


LANVIN

STELLA MCCARTNEY

BIG FUZZ

It's the easiest way to channel old-school Penny Lane or new-school Kate Moss. Cozy up to oversized shapes and longer lengths.


CHLOÉ


FENDI


KENZO


MARNI

SHAG PILE-UP

Top off the fuzzy look with furry extras. Bonus points for working fluffy neon clogs.




STELLA MCCARTNEY


CARVEN

DEREK LAM


GIULETTA

CROP TO FIT

The new way to wear culottes? Paired with high boots. Perfect for when low temperatures restrict ankle exposure.




ELIE SAAB


EMILIO PUCCI


ROCHAS


CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION


JW ANDERSON


VALENTINO

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

ALL DOLLED UP

Doll-like dresses emerged as pre-fall's most playful pieces. For a sweet fix, stick with high necklines and short hemlines.

— CLAUDIA JUKIC





When Pauline Moynat started her eponymous label in 1849, it was a revolution of sorts — she was the first woman to make luxury trunks. While this French malletier began with custom-fitted trunks for automobiles, Moynat soon branched out into the crafting of smaller leather goods. The Parisian savoir-faire that was associated with the brand was resurrected by current artistic director, Ramesh Nair (previously at Hermès), when Moynat relaunched in 2011 after a hiatus of almost 30 years.

STAR VALUE

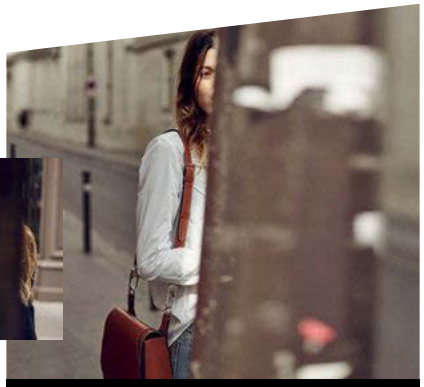
Pauline Moynat's association with actress Gabrielle Réjane led to one of the most iconic creations for the brand — the 'Réjane' bag (the first-ever bag to be named after a star at the time). Muse to Pauline, Réjane, a renowned actress of the era, was also the inspiration behind the start of Moynat's women's bag line. This year's version aims to channel sophistication and polished evening chic in an easy-to-tote size (read: super-mini).



SHOP IT NOW

Buy Moynat at 348 Rue Saint Honoré, Paris and 112 Mount Street, London





SOCIAL SCENE

Moynat usually refrains from advertising and is averse to noisy publicity, but their recent Instagram campaign left us wanting more. The mood evoked mature sophistication, topped with artsy mystique, and featured French fashion personalities like Camille Bidault-Waddington, Louis-Marie de Castelbajac and Anne-Sophie Mignaux, all perfectly exemplifying the modern Moynat woman.

why you should be wearing...

MOYNAT

The quiet French brand spells uncompromising luxury with a hyper-exclusive feel





INNER CHILD

Pharell Williams' collaboration with the brand came about after he discovered an old Moynat label at the brand's Paris store featuring a train, which reminded him of the American classic, *The Harvey Girls* (1946). The result was a refreshing mix of resin and colour-blocked graphics, previously unseen at the design house.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Perfecting the art of simplicity is usually quite complex to realise — a quality that is synonymous with Moynat. The made-to-measure approach is a rigorous process, from hand stitching to assembling, and a single bag takes around 16 hours to make. The current favourite, the 'Sac Mignon', is delicate with finer proportions, as compared to the classic 'Réjane' which is bolder and boxier.



— ALISHA NETALKAR

INSTAGRAM.COM/MOYNAT



CAMLA

AMBIENCE MALL, GURGAON

WORK SPY

*Dior's VP Marketing & Communications, **Kalyani Chawla**, takes us through her week, which is all kinds of chic as she mixes the best of East and West*



OFFICE MODE

Cotton shirt, metal necklaces, metal ring, all **Dior**. Neoprene skirt, **Dhruv Kapoor**. Leather sandals, **Zara**

"I would describe my work style as casual chic. If I have meetings, I tend to make more of an effort and dress more formally"



MEETINGS WITH EDITORS

Twill shirt, twill pants, leather pumps, all **Dior**



Wednesday

MID-WEEK BREAK

Satin dress, **Lecoanet Hemant**. Leather pumps, **Aldo**. Leather bag, metal earrings, metal ring, all **Dior**

"My go-to Indian designers include Lecoanet Hemant and Rajesh Pratap Singh as they make quality, timeless clothing with a twist"

#ELLEWORKSPY
Does your office make the cut? Tweet at us @ELLEINDIA with photos, and this could be you (use the hashtag)!

PHOTOGRAPHS: NISHANTH RADHAKRISHNAN; STYLING: ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: SAVLEEN MANCHANDA



Thursday

BOUTIQUE RUNS

Crêpe dress, cotton jacket, both **Bodice**. Leather sandals, **Charles & Keith**. Metal ring, **Dior**

"I have been wary of wearing prints in the past but slowly I find myself gravitating towards it. I am beginning to experiment with it in small doses"



Friday

COCKTAIL EVENINGS

Organza shirt, organza skirt, leather sandals, all **Dior**

"My weekend style includes a lot of relaxed silhouettes like maxi dresses, kaftans and blouses"



Sunday

TIME AT HOME

Cotton dress, **Cécile d'Ascoli**. Beaded leather sandals, **Christophe Sauvat**. Leather necklace, **Dior**



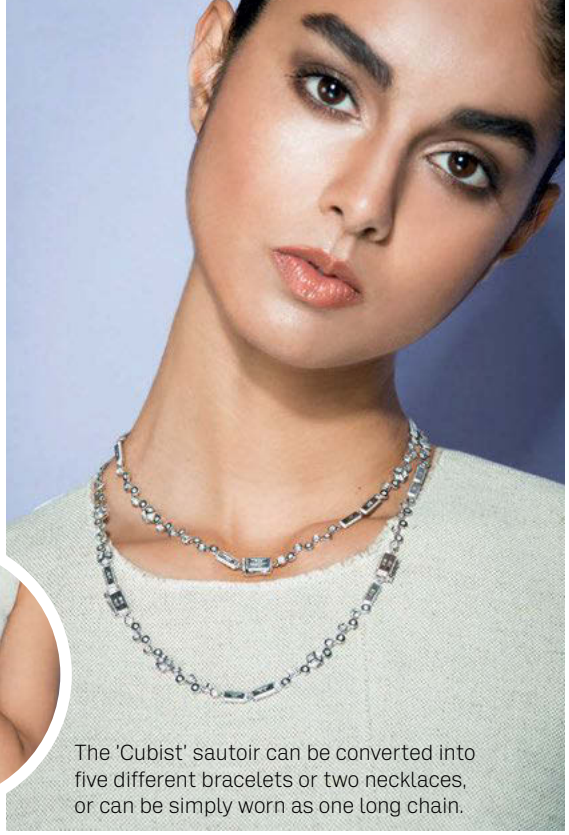
Saturday

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

Cotton maxi dress, **Christophe Sauvat**. Leather bag, metal cuff, metal ring, all **Dior**. Leather sandals, **Vanilla Moon**

THE SWITCH

*Precious jewellery that multitasks? **Nirav Modi** shows you how it's done*





The 'Cubist' sautoir can be converted into five different bracelets or two necklaces, or can be simply worn as one long chain.





The 'Waterfall' ring can be separated to be worn as just a solitaire ring or with the addition of an ornate jacket.

A diamond necklace that breaks down into multiple bracelets, a solitaire ring that can be worn with or without a statement border, cascading earrings that can be instantly shortened (if you suddenly realise you're overdressed!) — all investment pieces that don't just sit around looking pretty, but also work very hard. Nirav Modi's quest to simplify fine jewellery, "to create jewels that can be worn and enjoyed every day," has led him to make pieces that are best described as "fluid and flexible".

While following strong inspiration like celestial bodies and Cubism, each story features functional designs that shape-shift; "They take on a personality of their own that allows them to go from day to night with a simple adjustment," he says.

Smart diamonds? We're sold.

NIDHI JACOB





The 'Celestial Waterfall' earrings can be worn as simple studs or can be turned into a cascade with an extension.



The 'Floating Pear' earrings feature a diamond-studded front that can be further enhanced with detachable pear-shaped solitaire swing-backs.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING: ARUSHI PARAKH; MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; MODEL: SHANALI/ANIMA CREATIVE MANAGEMENT
JUTE DRESS, MARNI AT *THECORNER.COM*



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COOL COLLAB

ADIDAS ORIGINALS X MARY KATRANTZOU





This was a one-of-a-kind collab that had us craving seconds — and now, the wait is over. Mary Katrantzou and sports giant adidas Originals come back stronger in their second collection. The line is an extension of the London-based designer's print and pattern-heavy Spring/Summer 2015 collection. Ribbed detailing on column dresses and joggers, parkas with shoe-lace strings, badminton racquet prints and athletes (you can't miss the synchronised swimmer figurines). Ready to swap oversized tees and hide-everything-tights for awesome, new and improved gym essentials?

adidas.co.in





NEW OPENING

FROU FROU BY ARCHANA RAO

Archana Rao opens her flagship store in Hyderabad, and here's what you should watch out for. The studio space is an extension of her design vibes — relaxed and easy, with a feminine touch. As well as the pretty pastels hanging on the rack, expect to pick up Rao's original artworks and charming stationery.

8-2-670/9, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

LABEL TO KNOW

KIRAT YOUNG

Remember Yves Saint Laurent's first multi-cultural supermodel muse? Today, Kirat Young dons a new role with her line of fine jewellery. A hobby that turned into a job, is what she calls it. After years of tinkering around with jewels, with a final push from Oscar (as in de la Renta!), she launched her very own brand, which now stocks at all ODLR boutiques as well as her website. Her designs have a quintessential Indian-ness to them with a mix of chaand balis, chandelier earrings and polki work.

Kiratyoung.com













Jalan Sahbà, former interior designer turned bag designer is fast climbing up our list of names to know. Quick trivia on Sahbà: she was born in Italy, then did a stint in India and finally moved to Kenya. You will find elements of these exotic cultures in her designs, like her newest collection 'L'odissea' that features Italian leather, semi-precious stones and tropical colours.

Jalansahba.com



DISCO DENIM

Milliner Shilpa Chavan (a.k.a Little Shilpa) tries her hand at denim with a line called 'Disco Denimals'. So what can you expect? Metallic rainbow-coloured pleats on shift dresses, shiny draw-strings and soft volume; all inspired by the grunge-and-disco mix of the '80s. The designer adds a touch of whimsy to the functional fabric in this anything-but-ordinary collection.

Littleshilpa.com



INPUTS FROM NEHA SALVI AND AKANKSHA KAMATH

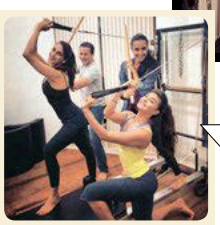


FITNESS FIRST

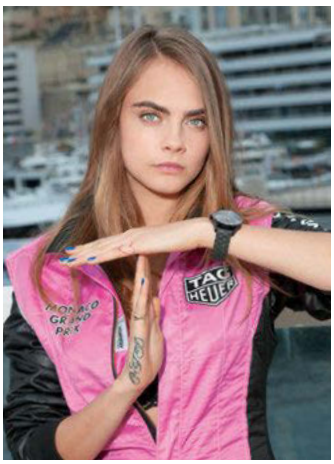
Versatile and breathable, Pulse XT, (PUMA's latest training shoe), finds a fan in actor and fitness buff Jacqueline Fernandez. One of the fittest celebs in Bollywood, Fernandez speaks of her association with the star sneaker, "As an avid track-runner, basketball and badminton player, and Zumba enthusiast, I find that the new PULSE XT is just right for my training needs since it integrates new age technology with classic style." A new pair of trainers is bound to beat those workout blues, right? Right.

6, Skyzone, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai





INSTA FIT
Get inspired by Jacqueline's Instagram fitness moments



GRAND TIME

In an exclusive party on the night before the Monaco Grand Prix, held aboard the luxury yacht SeaDream, TAG Heuer celebrated their 30th year with the McLaren-Honda (the longest standing association in F1 history). In attendance were supermodel and newest brand ambassador Cara Delevingne (who incidentally started at the Grand Prix as a 'Grid Girl') , racing champ Fernando Alonso and the Mclaren team, grooving to DJ Mark Ronson's music.

462, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai







COLOUR PLAY

The 'La Mini D de Dior' watches get a vibrant makeover this year. Dipped in rainbow hues, the tickers feature elegant black mother-of-pearl dials, bejewelled bezels, buckles and crowns, just like the signature fine jewellery from the French maison.

Emporio Mall, Ground Floor, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi









SILVER STREAK

It's celebration time for Monisha Jaising as the luxury designer marks 25 years in the fashion biz. In a big move, her bohemian resort wear, embroidered jackets and sporty sweatshirts will now be just a click away. Jaising has launched her e-commerce website, which will stock the label's ready-to-wear and affordable luxury lines.

Monishajaising.com



STAR ADDITION

Omega has added a new name to their star-studded roster of ambassadors which include George Clooney and Nicole Kidman, and it's none other than British sensation Eddie Redmayne. The Oscar-winning actor, who played Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything* (2014), says, "I have worn Omega for a number of years, so to be made an official ambassador for the brand on a global level is very exciting." Win-win all around, we'd say!

CR2 Mall Ground Floor, Shop 22, Barrister Rajni Patel Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai



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Medical marvel

Melanie Kannokada is making dreams come true as an on-screen doctor

Her parents have been over the moon since Melanie Kannokada landed the lead role in CBS' medical drama *Code Black*, which will debut later this year. And not just because this is the Stanford alum's first meaty part since she switched up her mechanical engineering background for a shot at Hollywood, four years ago. Her academic Malayali family — she has a battalion of engineer uncles — is excited she at least gets to act as a doctor. "It's hilarious," admits the 28-year-old, who plays Malaya, one of the four first-year residents thrown into the deep end of the busiest emergency room in Los Angeles. But she gets it: "Growing up I loved math and physics, and we never talked about a career in the arts."

In Kannokada's defence, she's never been your typical geek; more the annoying all-rounder. She's been a national-level karate champion, a cheerleader through school and college, a model and sheepish Miss India America in 2007 ("I was a little embarrassed, but it helped me get a start in entertainment") and co-founder of the NGO Hospital for Hope, which provides for the underprivileged in Jharkhand. Plus... look at her.

Since reluctantly leaving "the stability" of New York for LA, Kannokada quickly bagged roles on TV shows like *NCIS*, *Parenthood* and *Rules Of Engagement*. And the great run continues: She recently married the love of her life (Neeraj Chandra, chief at private equity giant Tiger Global; total hottie, too). And this month, she plays an education activist alongside Jack Black and Tim Robbins in the HBO comedy *The Brink*, about the American government tackling a political crisis in Pakistan. She credits faith and her parents for keeping her afloat: "They watched over me and made sure I was eating right and could always afford health insurance!"

— MAMTA MODY

THEATRE



End game

Kalki Koechlin's directorial debut for theatre is the outcome of a deathly obsession

Her preferred genre is a little morbid: "Why am I obsessed with death? I don't know," says Kalki Koechlin. *The Living Room*, her first outing as theatre director, is a tragicomedy led by Neil Bhoopalam. It shares the grim theme of the *The Skeleton Woman*, the first play she ever wrote. "One day, I wrote a conversation between an old woman and Death. Many months later, I found it lying around and developed it into a story."

Being a triple threat isn't easy: To write and direct a play, while keeping her day job as a movie star, she says, helps her get better at all roles simultaneously — but it also "requires a lot of multi-tasking." She keeps her phone off while working, and then scrambles to return messages when it's time to get back on the grid. "Compartmentalising is important."

She's got famous company: No one does black comedy like Woody Allen, who once wrote, "The most beautiful words in the English language aren't 'I love you,' but 'It's benign'". "Woody Allen is definitely an influence," admits Koechlin, who, like him, finds humour in "the deep instinctive need we all have to hang on to mortality."

The Living Room **is on from July 24-26 at Ranga Shankara, Bengaluru.** ***Rangashankara.org***

— SIMRAN BHALLA



CINEMA SCOPE

Binge-watching stage plays is now a real danger. CinePlay, an initiative by Nandita Das and Subodh Maskara, makes popular theatre productions like Mahesh Dattani's *Dance Like A Man* more accessible (streamable) as pay-per-view clips. *Cineplay.com*

NAME TO KNOW

NAYANTARA KOTIAN

The theatre entrepreneur's new initiative is breaking the fourth wall

If you plan to watch a play by this NID graduate, don't worry about the scramble for a good seat. Thirty-one-year-old Kotian recently set up Crow productions with Prashant Prakash (they previously founded Quaff theatre with Kalki Koechlin) to bring audience-inclusive theatre to India. Their debut offering, *The Bliss Of Solitude*, also written and directed by Kotian, is set in the dystopian future where "man moves underground because the surface of the earth is uninhabitable." The sci-fi drama, currently in production, will prompt audiences to actively explore the set, mainly propped with e-waste. As Kotian designs a multi-pronged future for Crow, which includes designing immersive marketing tools and setting up workshops to bolster the craft in India, she's also scouting for venues for her next play, about "a 40-something actor who's played a rabbit for 10 years."

— VATSALA CHHIBBER



LUCKY MALHOTRA (NAYANTARA KOTIAN); ABHAY SINGH (KALKI KOECHLIN)

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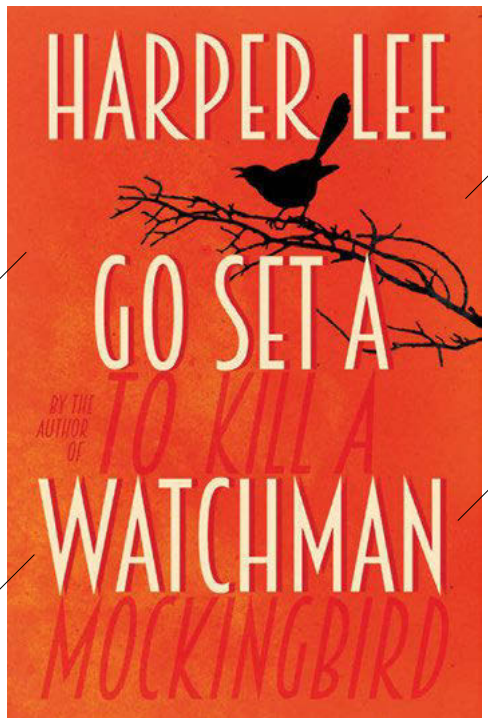
ELLE PICKS
Judging a book by its cover? You'll love our round-up of new coffee-table books on ELLE.in/bigbooks

Gold finch

Before you read the sequel to Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, revisit life lessons from its role model dad, ***Atticus Finch***

In Harper Lee's *Go Set A Watchman*, now the most pre-ordered book in HarperCollins' history, a grown-up Scout visits her father in their hometown Maycomb, and battles personal and societal uncertainties.





TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

Finch is a deeply modern parent; a single dad who balances childcare and work with even passion and attention. He respects his children by not infantilising them (he even lets them call him by his first name) and never lying to them.

HAVE EMPATHY

It's not just the black man falsely accused of raping a white woman that he defends and empathises with, but also the parochial townsfolk who oppose everything he stands for.

KNOW YOURSELF

Finch is opposed by most of his town, and yet, no matter how this strains his life, he holds on to his beliefs, saying, "The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."

FIGHT TILL YOU LOSE

Finch realises that, despite having the facts on his side, his case is a long shot. And yet he soldiers on, telling his children they must as well: "Courage is knowing you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do."

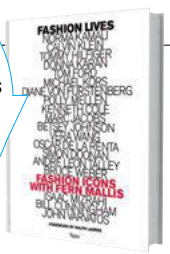
Go Set A Watchman **(Penguin Random House) is out this month**

— SIMRAN BHALLA

CHAMPION GENDER EQUALITY

It's popular to retroactively declare literary icons feminists, but Finch is the genuine article. Scout, his daughter with a boy's nickname, is encouraged to play and dress as she pleases, even if it defies gender norms. "I think there's just one kind of folks. Folks," is Finch's belief.

Fashion Lives (Rizzoli), a compilation of the best of the former executive director of CFDA's popular interview series, delves into the "warm, fuzzy, human" stories of industry giants.





LIFE AND TIMES

Fern Mallis' favourite moments from her new book of conversations with fashion's greatest legends



MICHAEL KORS' FIRST TRYST WITH FASHION: "At summer camp, as a kid, he hated the way clothes came back from the laundry. So he started his own dry-cleaning business; Kors and a friend would lay washed clothes out flat under heavy wooden planks, then wrap them with good tissue paper."



BILL CUNNINGHAM'S JACKIE-O MOMENT: "I asked if he dyed the red Balenciaga suit that Jackie Kennedy wore to the President's funeral when he was working at [department store] Bonwit Teller. He said, 'I think it was Dior? She didn't have time to get a black suit organised, so she sent us her red suit and we dyed it black."



DIANE VON FURSTENBERG'S LESSON FROM HER MOM: "What you think is the worst thing to happen to you, is actually not. At 14, and in a concentration camp, Diane's mom was separated from the older woman who took care of her. Frightened, she ran to be with her but was made to return to her own line. Soon after, the woman's line was led to the gas chambers."

— CHERYL-ANN COUTO

JOYCE CULVER (FERN MALLIS)

By the book

Judy Blume's young adult novels have shaped countless lives. Now the author, 77, shares the ones that shaped hers



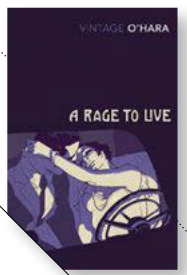


MADELINE
BY LUDWIG BEMELMANS

When I was a child, my mother took me to the public library every week. That's how I found Madeline. She was brave and I wanted to be brave. I was afraid of so many things: the dog down the street, the dark, the Madonna in the stained-glass window in the church that we drove by every day.

A RAGE TO LIVE
BY JOHN O'HARA

A Rage To Live [a social chronicle of America in the Forties] was the only book my mother told me I mustn't read. I told my aunt and she brought it over, and I stayed up all night reading it. There were certain sexy passages that were thrilling and served me well for a long time.



NANCY DREW
BY CAROLYN KEENE

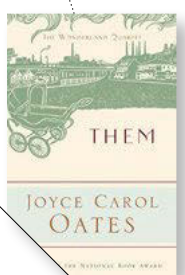
I grew up buying a Nancy Drew mystery every week with my allowance; I think they were 25 cents. I loved to play at being Nancy Drew (my bicycle was my roadster). Now I drive around Key West, where I live in the winter time, in a Mini convertible, still playing at it.





FEAR OF FLYING
BY ERICA JONG

I locked myself in the little room where I wrote, pulled down the shades and sat there until I finished it. For young women of my generation, the story of Isadora Wing and her search for no-strings, satisfying sex was daring and startling and wonderful.

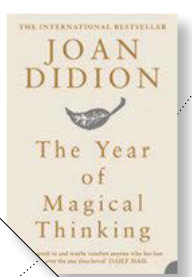


THEM
BY JOYCE CAROL OATES

When I was a very young mother, before I started writing, I read *Them*. I can't tell you today what it was about, but I do know that I could not stop reading it. I knew the writer was my age and that she had written what I thought was an absolute masterpiece. I read all day as my children played in the sandbox, and there was no dinner when my husband came home.

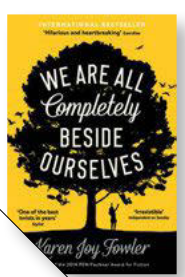
THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING
JOAN DIDION

An account of the year following the death of Didion's husband, this book made me cry. I'm old enough to have seen it happen to many people who were close to me. I was with my father when he died suddenly at 54. I was 21. At the time, I had no idea what my mother was going through.



WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY BESIDE OURSELVES
BY KAREN JOY FOWLER

I just love it and have been recommending it to everyone. It's an original and spontaneous take on family that grabs you and doesn't let you go.



— GEORGIA SIMMONDS



1

PIXELS

In this Adam Sandler comedy, NASA sends time capsules loaded with culture-defining footage (arcade games mainly, it's the '80s) into space. Aliens respond to the 'war threat' by sending back a giant, 3D Pacman and a murderous Donkey Kong. Give us the videogame version already.





BATTLE GROUND

It's time to finally crown the ultimate action hero as two long-running franchises return this month: Tom Cruise's *Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation* and Arnie's *Terminator Genisys*; at 67, he's still signing off with a reassuring 'I'll be back'.

CHILD SUPPORT

Three new releases in defence of never growing up



2

MINIONS

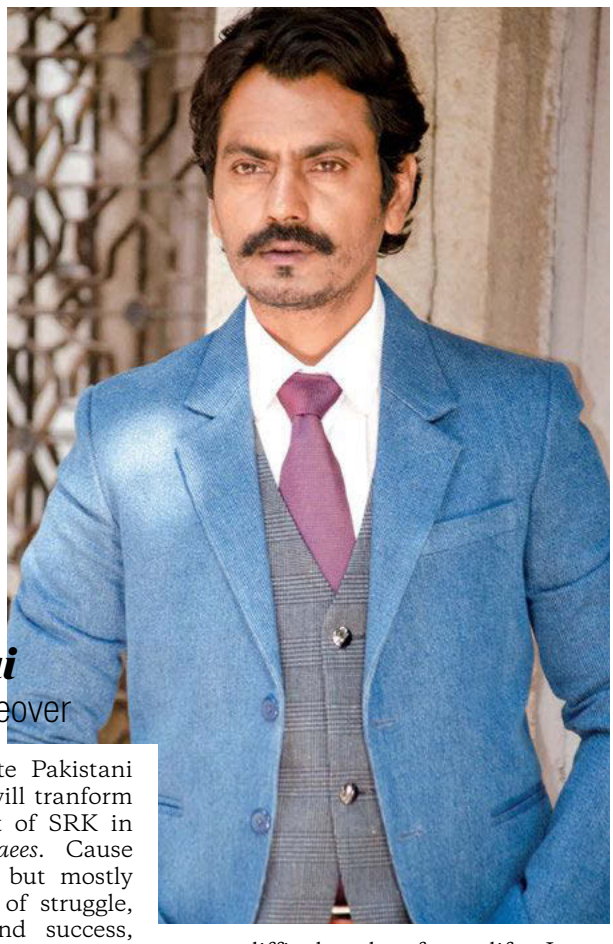
After accidentally killing their masters, star minions Stuart, Kevin and Bob hitchhike to a villain convention in Orlando to find a new overlord. Enter Scarlett Overkill (Sandra Bullock) and her scheming husband, who hatch a plan for world domination. Their war cry? Banaaaanaaaaaa!



3

A LEGO BRICKUMENTARY

In this documentary, Daniel Junge and Kief Davidson address every child's burning concern: what *can* you build with LEGO blocks? The answer includes art galleries, support groups and a unique nerd subculture.



Fair trade

Indie poster boy ***Nawazuddin Siddiqui*** is giving Bollywood blockbusters a subtle makeover

If you look up Nawazuddin Siddiqui's filmography, you'll scroll into a past lined with untitled roles — criminal (*Sarfarosh*), waiter (*Shool*), pick-pocket (*Munna Bhai MBBS*). These were early victories in the Muzaffarnagar native's 17-year-long Bollywood pursuit. Now, Siddiqui, 42, is a well-trumpeted name even on big-ticket 100-crore runners. After overshadowing Varun Dhawan as the vile-but-lovable criminal Liaq in *Badlapur*, the actor is now juggling two Khan-led releases. In the first, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, the annual Eid spectacle from Salman Khan, Nawaz plays accomplice to a Hanuman-devotee, on a journey to take a young mute Pakistani girl home. Later, he will tranform into a cop in pursuit of SRK in Rahul Dholakia's *Raees*. Cause for celebration, sure, but mostly caution. "After a life of struggle, when you finally find success, there is a tendency to rise a few inches off the ground," he says.

He controls symptoms of bloated head by actively looking for roles that can manage to make him feel insecure. Like the time he struggled to inhabit the single-minded Dashrath Manjhi, a man who spent 22 years chipping away at a mountain for a woman he loved in Ketan Mehta's upcoming *Mountain Man*. "It has been the most difficult role of my life. I couldn't understand it because I've never loved anyone as intensely."

Siddiqui's indie-commercial balance might be tipping in favour of glossy blockbusters for now, but he isn't speaking their language just yet. "Our industry has a habit of labelling method actors 'too serious'," he says. "But if you have a brain, why hesitate to use it?"

Bajrangi Bhaijaan **is out this month**

— VATSALA CHHIBBER

MAGIC IF FILMS (NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI)

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Lucky stars

Our despatch of winning moments (both awkward and fun) from the ***IIFA awards***

Deepika Padukone received a rather dubious Woman of the Year award. Of course, what we'll choose to remember is that Ranveer Singh went down on one knee.





Hrithik Roshan can take the stage at 2.15am and still keep you riveted with his moves. IIFA sure knows how to save the best for last.

Georges Chakra (unofficially) wins Most Popular Green-Carpet Designer.



SHRADDHA KAPOOR



MALAIKA ARORA KHAN



PARINEETI CHOPRA



KRITI SANON

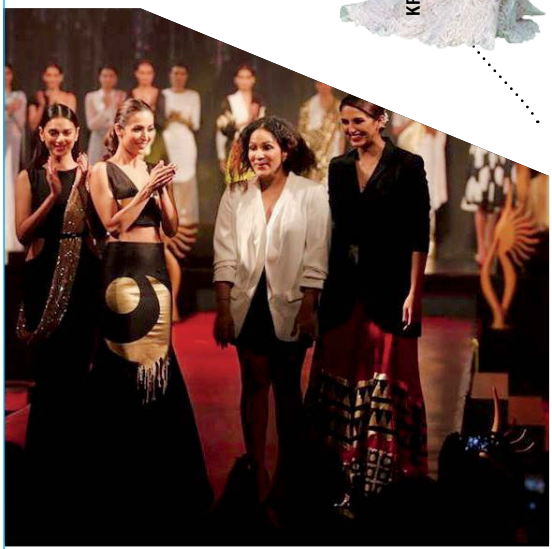
Ranveer Singh likes to soundtrack his life. The actor was dressed like the Mad Hatter and was trailed by a boom box blaring DJ Snake's 'Turn Down For What' on the green carpet.



TV humour will always be a thing of mystery. At IIFA Rocks, R Madhavan attempted to belly dance, Arjun Kapoor danced in flaming red heels and Anurag Kashyap got his arm waxed on stage.

Arjun Kapoor doesn't like the 'R' word. The one that, you know, rhymes with 'host'. Kapoor and Singh worked in throwbacks to that ill-fated AIB Roast — even extending a mock apology to Aamir Khan.





Designers Gaurang Shah, Masaba Gupta and Rocky S showed at the IIFA Fashion Extravaganza. Shah paid tribute to Umrao Jaan with his weaves; Gupta played with a palette of cinematic colours — black, white and starry gold; and Rocky S loaded up on sequins and lace.



Dubsmash veteran Sonakshi Sinha sang for real. She made her debut with Mika at IIFA Rocks. It prompted flashbacks of Priyanka Chopra's single with Pitbull.

VIRAL BHAYANI/IIFA

— SONAM SAVLANI

FILM

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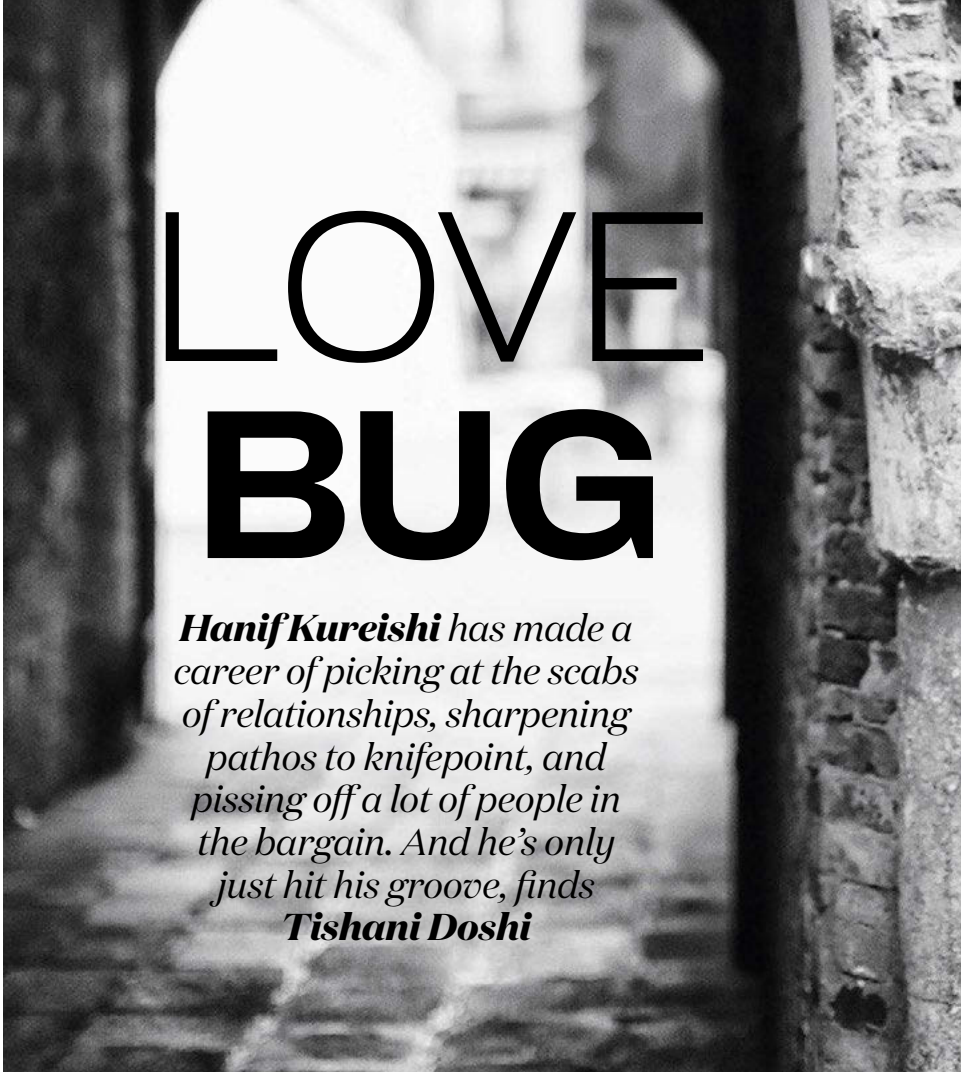
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WHEN EDGY JEWELLERY DESIGNER EDDIE BORGO ENTERS THE HANDBAG GAME, THE RESULTS ARE UNMISSABLE. READ THE ELLE EXCLUSIVE INSIDE

Literary bad boy Hanif Kureishi is oh-so-quotable in our exclusive interview, and fashion favourites Abraham & Thakore and AM.IT make recycling cool

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LOVE BUG

Hanif Kureishi** has made a career of picking at the scabs of relationships, sharpening pathos to knifepoint, and pissing off a lot of people in the bargain. And he's only just hit his groove, finds* ***Tishani Doshi

Even though his velvet trousers and shaggy hair days have given way to a perfectly groomed middle-aged respectability, there's still a bristle about Hanif Kureishi — in the sneer, the swagger, the stare. By his own admission he's a "bloody-minded fellow," and would prefer to be clubbed on the "Genet" end of the artist's scale along with the thieves, criminals and "bedlam boys". Provocateur, challenger of ideas, trendsetter — Kureishi has always been a writer ahead of the curve. And while race, immigration, sexuality, fathers and sons, all continue to be central to his work, his latest collection of stories and essays, *Love + Hate*, registers a shift in paradigms. There's a sense of arrival, of not having to blast away any doors, of a writer saying, "I'm in my own groove now, man. I'm just going to do what I do."

When I meet him at his home in Shepherd's Bush, London, Kureishi is dressed in a bright blue shirt with wide cuffs, slacks and canvas sneakers. There's a reserve about him, but get him to laugh at something you say and he will burst into a clipped, enthusiastic chortle. Kureishi tells me he wanted to retire after he wrote his novel, *The Last Word* (2014). "I thought, that was it, I'm finished. I'm just going to sit around now. After three days of sitting around, you know, you get bored, and you start writing again. There's nothing else to do. My kids have grown up and fucked off, Isabella [Kureishi's girlfriend] is in Rome, so I write." But he's quick to establish that he's still excited about being a writer. "Being a writer is not a permanent thing, you have to reaffirm it, you have to decide over and over again that you want to carry on."

This kind of push-pull, love-hate paradox abounds in Kureishi's universe. He has repeatedly slammed creative writing schools for being a waste of time, and yet he teaches creative writing at Kingston University. He calls the novel the central form and yet he admits he hasn't read a novel in years. ("It's either so bad it's impossible to read, or it's so good you feel ashamed and embarrassed, you think I could never do that, so I don't really need the hassle. I'm glad people are reading, but I don't see why I would have to do it.") He extols the virtues of the theatre but would rather stay home and watch a Joan Crawford movie. And for all the magnitude of the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll image he has curated for himself, he has been an arduously disciplined writer, producing an impressive oeuvre that includes four plays, 10 novels, eight screenplays and six books of non-fiction.

Many of the essays in *Love + Hate* explore this conundrum as to why "we are still people who love to hate". In 'A Theft: My Con Man', Kureishi describes his experience of being robbed of his life savings by his accountant. It reads as an account of the seduction in hating. He becomes obsessed with the man who has stolen his money, phoning him every hour, stalking him, believing that he'll come through in the end. It's a hate so great that by some "mysterious alchemy," it starts turning into love.

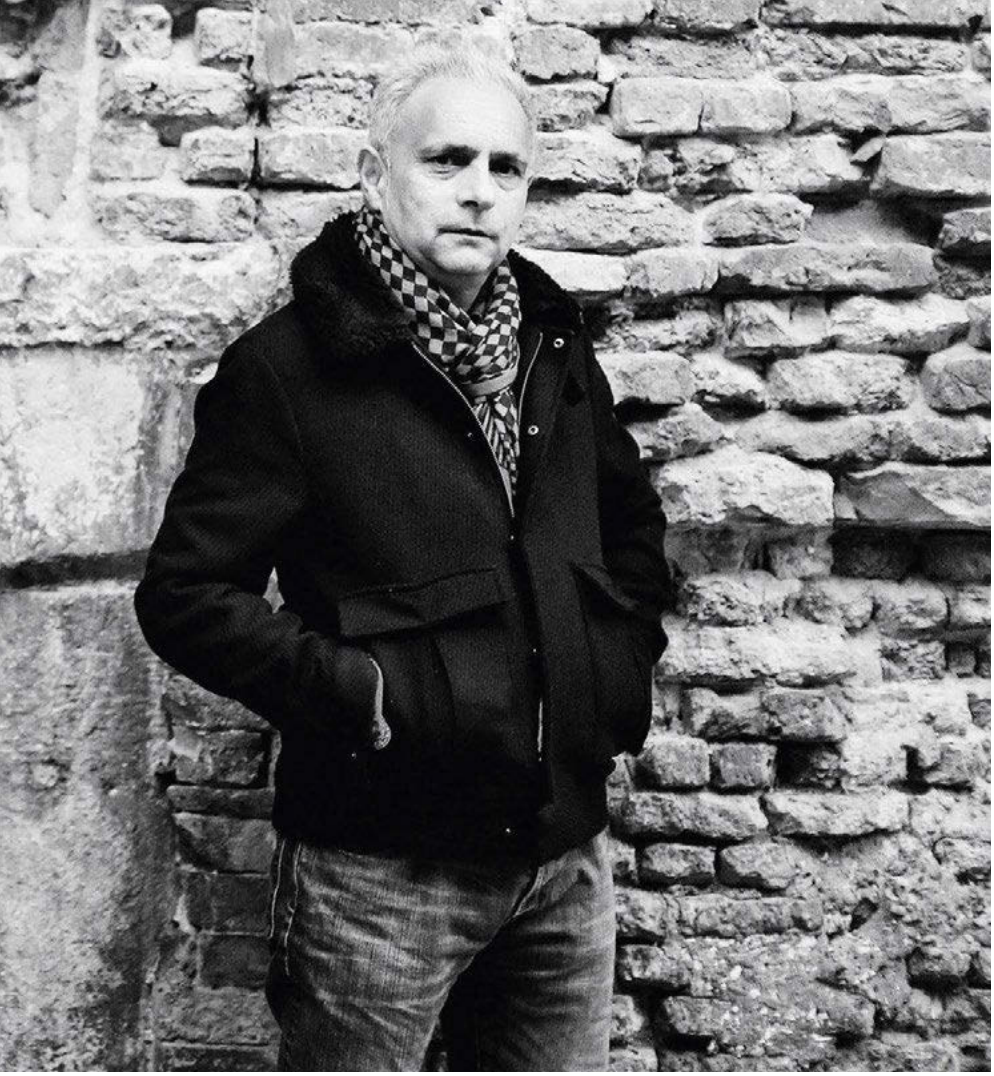
In 'The Heart of Whiteness', he writes about discovering ER Braithwaite's *To Sir, With Love* in the Bromley library as a young "mongrel" kid, battling skinheads, living in the shadow of Enoch Powell's 'Rivers Of Blood' speech; how that book contextualised the framework of race for him, and in fact, saved him. "The nexus of hate," Kureishi says, is what puzzles and interests him. "The racism I grew up with mostly had to do with colonial superiority. Now it's much more virulent and it's to do with politics, in the sense that it's to do with scaring people. You know — 'all these Muslims are coming to Europe, and when they come it will be a Muslim State, and they're breeding all the time, and there'll be Sharia law,' and all that crap. We live in that kind of cliché the whole time, which is sort of horrifying."

The immigrant is as central a figure to Kureishi's work as the city of London is. These two are forever twinned in his imagination. As the son of an Indian father and an

BARBARA ZANON

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> *The way you left somebody was more interesting than the way you found somebody. Leaving somebody is much more traumatic*

English mother, Kureishi describes how getting out of the suburbs was a revelation, a way out. He started his career at the Royal Court Theatre, which in the '70s, was very political and very left-wing. "There were lots of feminists, gay activists, Trotskyites, communists, and they'd say to you, 'Is your play advancing the revolution, Hanif?'" When he reflects on that time he says, "I was lucky to be in that bubble when you could be a bohemian. You could be an artist. It's incredible to me that I became an artist at all, that I became anybody. You know, I'm from the suburbs. I have no education, no class. Somehow I got through. It seems amazing."

Many of his new essays dwell on the minefields between generations, the shift in authority between fathers and sons, and a new kind of paternalism. "I shared the same paradigm as my father," Kureishi says. "My father would give me a book of short stories by Chekhov and I'd read it, and he'd talk to me about it. We lived in the same idea even though I loved Jimi Hendrix and he liked Duke Ellington."

Kureishi has three sons, and admits that none of them have read a thing he's written. "My children grew up in the 1990s... They're kids who were brought up entirely on what I call the Electrics. They've never read a book. They spend their whole life watching *Breaking Bad* and playing games, but they're not stupid kids. They're consumers, perfect consumers, they'll buy anything. There's a big shopping centre nearby in Westfield, it's their church, they love it. They and I don't live in the same paradigm."

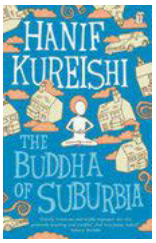
Kafka, one of Kureishi's foremost torchbearers, writes in his diary, "A man without a woman is no person." How important have women been in his life? There's a long pause. "Well, it's the central thing. Who you desire, who you live with, the mothers of the children I have, my own mother. But there's been a big change in the way in which you love. The way in which you love is becoming capitalistic. People come and go." Kureishi trails off into another paradox that fascinates him: the reasons why people leave each other. "I'm interested in that, particularly when I wrote *Intimacy* [1998]. It seemed to me that the way in which you left somebody was more interesting than the way in which you found somebody, because that's banal — you fancied them, you fell in love, blah blah blah. But leaving somebody is much more traumatic. And my children, I presume, will have to leave a lot of people in their lives."

Kureishi has received a fair amount of flak for writing too close to the bone. When he published the semi-autobiographical *The Buddha Of Suburbia* (1990), his sister accused him of selling their family "down the line," and presumably *Intimacy,* about a man about to leave his family, was not a fun read for the woman Kureishi abandoned. When I ask Kureishi what he makes of the publishing trend of 'reality fiction', he says, "I don't think the truth is interesting in itself. What you're interested in is the vision of the artist. When I watch a movie by Hitchcock, he's not telling me what he did yesterday. He's made this into a highly contrived, highly dramatic structure, which is beautiful. Obviously, we all use elements of our life, but we go to some trouble to try and make it sexy for somebody else. That treatment is art. I would never say that I do autobiographical fiction because I go through huge fucking trouble to make sure that this is a story that somebody else is going to enjoy, and me going to that trouble is what the art is."

Love + Hate: Stories And Essays **(Faber) is out this month**

GET TO KNOW THE AUTHOR

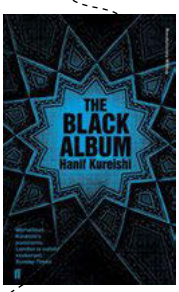
...through his most provocative novels



Read about his rootless childhood in

THE BUDDHA OF SUBURBIA (1990)

This semi-autobiography tells the coming-of-age story of Karim Amir in 1970s suburban London. Racial discrimination is rampant and Amir juggles adolescent (sexual) worries and the vagaries of his British-Indian identity, while keeping up with his mystic father, the titular Buddha.



Ponder with the concerned Muslim in

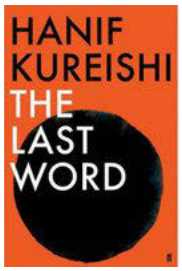
THE BLACK ALBUM (1995)

The novel digs into the life of a young Pakistani student in '80s London, manoeuvering Muslim conditioning, blasphemous love and the Prince-endorsed rock'n'roll lifestyle. The novel was born from his feeling of unease with the wave of fundamentalism (and the fatwa on close friend Salman Rushdie) in the '80s.

Snigger with the clever satirist in

THE LAST WORD (2014)

A young writer is hired to pen the biography of the brilliant-but-blistering literary giant, Mamoon Azam. The character is rumoured to be modelled on author VS Naipaul, who was outed as a cruel husband and lover by his authorised biographer.



SELF HELP

Kureishi's cut-and-keep guide for first-time writers



ON READING FOR ANSWERS

"I grew up reading American post-war fiction — Philip Roth, James Baldwin, Saul Bellow, Jack Kerouac — because they were mostly about young men escaping their families and going on the road, which is what I wanted to do and which is what I did."

ON SEX WRITING

"It's pointless to write about people copulating. What's interesting about sex is how it changes you. What it means to have this sexual relationship with X, Y or Z — otherwise, it's utterly banal, it's just like describing somebody eating a sandwich."

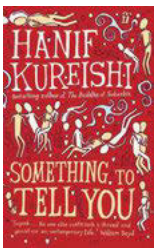




ON HOW TO MAKE IT

"Well, you just have to write and find out how tough it is. I didn't know when I started how to make a living as a writer. I couldn't tell anybody how to do that... it's snakes and ladders, man. You make a lot of money, you collapse, then you make a bit more money, then you survive, then you collapse, then you get a job. There's no rule. It's chaos out there."

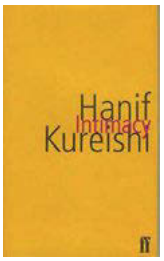
Discover his Freudian bent in



SOMETHING TO TELL YOU (2008)

In the former philosophy student's third novel, a middle-aged psychoanalyst is haunted by demons from his own past — an old love and her abusive father, murdered at his hands. The story was inspired by Kureishi's own teenage girlfriend, who was possibly being abused by her father, ran away from home and was never seen again.

Enter his unhappy marriage in



INTIMACY (1998)

Kureishi details 24 hours in the life of a man preparing to abandon his wife and two children. Published soon after the author's own (well-reported) exit from domesticity, the book raised eyebrows for its impolite exploration of male angst. Sample: "There are some fucks for which a person would have their partner and children drown in a freezing sea."

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*Organising superhero **Marie Kondo**'s sweetly devastating KonMari method is about cleaning up your life to find happiness. **Saba Imtiaz**, certified magpie, puts it to the test*

I hold up a sequinned tunic, a remnant of Fall/Winter 2009-10, and ask myself if it... sparks any joy. I know, I know. 'Does it spark joy?' What kind of question is that to pose to a tunic, or — as I would over the course of eight hours — ask a pair of flared jeans, a vintage denim jacket and several tops with their price tags still attached? It's a question that has changed my closet and the way I live. Three weeks after interrogating my jeans, I had thrown away some 25 garbage bags and boxes of stuff, thanks to the best-selling book by Japanese cleaning and lifestyle guru Marie Kondo, *The Life-Changing Magic Of Tidying Up* (Ten Speed Press). And believe it or not, I haven't missed a thing.

It may seem radical, if not entirely insane and cult-like, to be tossing my possessions based on a book. But Kondo's KonMari cleaning method has become a worldwide sensation. There are scores of hypnotic videos of her neatly folding clothes, and Pinterest abounds with before-and-after photos of closets. Who is this woman and why is she sweeping through our cabinets?

Kondo is the author of four books on the art of organising and cleaning, and she lives in Tokyo, where she runs a consulting business. But the reason behind her success — and why I bought into her method — is that the central theme is simple: Joy. "What things will bring you joy if you keep them as part of your life?" Kondo writes. "Pick them as if you were identifying items you loved from a showcase in your favourite store. Once you've grasped the basics, put all your clothes in one heap, take them in your hand one by one, and ask yourself quietly, 'Does this spark joy?'"

I come from a family of hoarders: my parents have held on to congratulatory cards from my birth, my grandmother used to stockpile coal all year round to prepare for the brutal winter and my mother's trousseau included a steamer trunk. I wasn't stocking coal, but I owned enough things to put my ancestors to shame. Trying to find anything in my closet was like playing a round of Jumanji. My clothes had taken on a life of their own. Hangers would attach themselves to shirt collars, scarves would disappear between pairs of trousers and silk shirts would slither into a pile at the bottom of the closet. I could never find anything to wear, but it wasn't because I didn't have any clothes; I had too many. My other cupboards were just as packed with prescriptions and bills, unread books, old college reports, stacks of documents from reporting assignments, old issues of magazines and ATM receipts from the mid-2000s. Every so often, I'd grab a garbage bag and toss things out, but my cupboards only remained clean for a few days before everything built to critical mass and came tumbling out when I made to open them.

The Life-Changing Magic Of Tidying Up terrified me at first. I'd spent money on all these things. How could I just toss them, even if I hadn't used them in years? But Kondo doesn't advocate throwing out things merely because they take up too much space, or haven't been used enough. Instead, she says, focus on what you want to *keep*. This

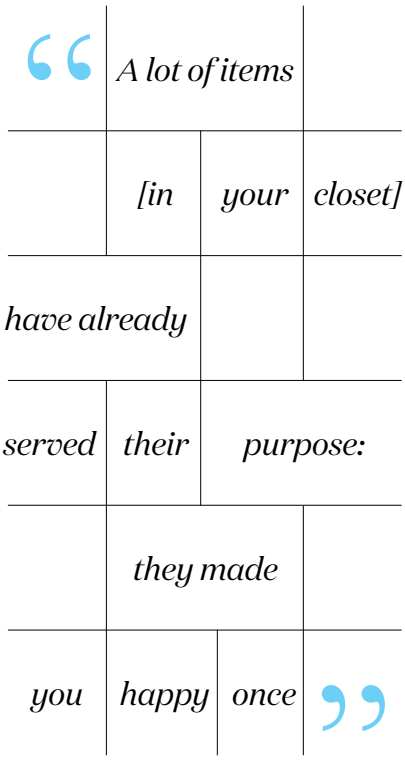
ELLE INSIDER
Need help tidying up? Follow our step-by-step guide to the KonMari method on ELLE.in/comeclean

was a revelation. I had become so used to the idea that cleaning meant just being good at organising your possessions, and maybe chucking some away. But Kondo's philosophy isn't about clean closets. It extends to your life. "As you continue to explore the reasons behind your ideal lifestyle, you will come to a simple realisation," Kondo writes. "The whole point in both discarding and keeping things is to be happy."

In May, as I packed for a literary event in Dhaka, I realised something that kick-started my Marie Kondo journey. I was taking the same items I'd worn to every literary festival/talk/dinner I'd been to recently: a white satin top, a navy silk Massimo Dutti button-down, a basic polka-dot shirt, tapered black pants and a pair of playful heels. I felt great in these clothes. I could dress them up, down, go to sleep in them. Why did I need more clothes when this is all I wore? It boiled down to one thing: I needed to simplify my choices. It was time to KonMari my life.

Before starting, Marie Kondo says one has to visualise the lifestyle you want — and how tidying fits into that. She asks that you look at organising not as a one-time exercise, but a lifestyle change. The entire KonMari method can take months, and it's easy to feel conflicted at the thought of throwing out things that carry great memories, or that you know you'll fit into one day (will you, though?). But Kondo notes that a lot of these items have already served their purpose: they made you happy once, or they've served to gently alert you to your life (your escalating weight might need looking into), and now it's time to let go. Kondo herself prefers the cold turkey method: "If you tidy up in one shot, rather than little by little, you can dramatically change your mindset," she says. "A change so profound that it touches your emotions, will irresistibly affect your way of thinking and lifestyle habits."

I wasn't sure I could be reformed overnight, but I definitely wanted to be. Kondo advises doing the clean-up by category: clothing, followed by books, papers, miscellany and so on. And so, on a Friday evening, I opened my closets and dragged every stitch of clothing out: from ankle socks, heirloom saris and lingerie, to platform heels and trendy-again gladiator sandals. I dragged out ornate dupattas from their plastic covers, upended large bags of shawls and scarves, and broke about half-a-dozen hangers in the process. Twenty minutes later, my room looked like the aftermath of a hurricane. I crouched on a corner of the bed to take a photo, while my cat attempted to walk over the sea of clothes and accessories, and then finally took refuge in an empty cupboard. At first, it felt a bit silly to be asking my clothes if they sparked any joy. But once I held the shirts and shoes up and felt them, I



realised how few I wanted to keep. It took eight-and-a-half hours, two cups of coffee and 16 garbage bags. When I finally got off the floor, it was after midnight, my spine felt permanently bent and my arms ached from folding clothes. I was able to see the back of my cupboard for the first time in years.

The next morning, I opened the closet doors. It was like walking into a parallel dimension, albeit one where everything was folded in rectangles with almost origami-like precision, which clearly I, in a state of Kondo-driven hypnosis, had done according to her exacting standards. Getting dressed — which used to take hours while I dithered and decided, and changed repeatedly — now took minutes. Everything I touched was wearable.

Over the next few days, I began tackling the rest of my possessions. There was so little I wanted to keep, that it surprised me why I'd had so much stuff lying around for so long. For years, I thought I'd look at some of my reporting files again, or would revisit diary entries written on holidays. I never had, and so out they went, giving way to space on shelves and cabinets as I ripped, shredded and threw things away.

Weeks later, my closet is still clean. I keep it clean because it makes me happy, because it is part of my new, simpler way of life. As Kondo predicted, and much to my disbelief, cleaning and retaining the things that brought me joy has actually made me happier. I work from home, which meant that I would only change somewhat reluctantly when I was going out. But since I've gotten rid of every last scruffy t-shirt and pair of ripped pyjamas, I now sit down to write in actual clothes: a chiffon sari, a loose lingerie-inspired top. I feel better, more creative and excited about work than I have in a long time. And now that I've pared my possessions down to what I like, I don't get drawn back into the same old cycles of shopping because there's a sale, or keeping magazines because they'll come in handy some day (to do what, papier mâché?). I rip up ATM receipts and throw out carrier bags instead of storing them like I once did. When I'm tempted to keep something, I think back to the pile of garbage bags I amassed, and whether looking at it makes me happy.

So far, 100 per cent of the time, the answer is no. I don't miss anything. And when I look around, I don't see someone who is unorganised and thinks mess can be passed off as quaint or bohemian, but someone who is sorted, in every possible way. That alone brings me more joy than any pile of mismatched shirts. ●

Saba Imtiaz is the author of *Karachi, You're Killing Me!* (Random House India)

BIG SHOT

Fat in fashion? Actually, yes. British ELLE's ***Billie Bhatia*** *shares her journey owning the most polarising of 'F' words in the industry of her dreams*



PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA ADAMSON; MAKE-UP: LAUREY SIMMONS; HAIR: FABIO NOGUEIRA/FRANK AGENCY; MANICURIST: JESSICA THOMPSON

It was 2pm on a Monday when I was told I would be going to the British Fashion Awards, the Oscars of fashion. I had four hours to find an outfit. Cue heart palpitations, a minor panic attack and mega sweats. Ordinarily if you work in fashion, you're a sample size (or close enough) and can ask to borrow a dress. If you're not sample size, it's tricky.

I am fat and I work in fashion. When people find out what I do for a living, it is usually greeted with (poorly disguised) shock. Fat and in fashion? This cannot be. I never discuss my weight in terms of actual numbers. It's just not something I have ever been comfortable with; my mum doesn't even know. My reasoning is that weight is just your gravitational pull to the earth. If Kate Moss and I went to the moon, we would weigh roughly the same.

Working in fashion was always a pipe dream — a very skinny and seemingly unobtainable one that I wasn't going to fit into. My dad used to laugh at me for watching *America's Next Top Model*, asking: "Why are you watching this crap? Do you want to be one of these models?" (That is, until he watched an episode and cried because he was so happy that plus-size model Whitney won.) I didn't want to be a model, but I needed to be part of that world. I couldn't get enough. I loved the photo shoots, the ridiculous tasks Tyra Banks would set and, my favourite part, the final reveal of their best shot — the image that encapsulated a moment of transformation.

Fashion allows you to be whoever you want to be — not just the middle child in your eccentric Indian family — just by picking out a new outfit. But what really hooked me was the glamour: the parties, the couture, the air-kisses, that Faye Dunaway post-Oscars picture. I wanted to design the clothes, wear the pieces and take the pictures — basically run the whole show. But how? I knew nothing of it except the clippings that decorated my bedroom. Central Saint Martins may as well have been Timbuktu, it was so far from my reality. Those hallowed walls were for the edgy, the hipster and the dungarees-wearer. I was as round and conventional as could be. So I gazed from afar; dreaming of being a Dolce girl, but with no way of making it real.

I have always been a fatty. My only slender features are my perfectly sculpted eyebrows. And while there was the occasional bullying at school, for the most part I was safe. I was aware from a young age that I was considerably larger than my friends — they had their skinny legs and flat stomachs, and I cursed my dad every day for bequeathing his more rotund frame to me. It was an issue, sure, but only internally; I never played out my insecurities at school. It helped that I was good at sports. I was in an unbeatable rounders team (for our season win, we were treated to McDonald's, much to my jubilation).

It wasn't until university, and living in a house of eight girls, that fashion really came into play. My housemates were my size-10 dolls; I was the stylist. The junk in my trunk meant I couldn't wear the clothes I wanted to, so I styled my friends in them instead. I've seen other plus-size girls pull off fashionable looks with a 'don't give a fuck' approach, but despite the compliments on my appearance, I couldn't muster the same defiant attitude.

That isn't to say I hid myself away. I flaunted my false eyelashes and, boosted by my (now fabulously dressed) housemates, I rarely felt out of place. But as I got older, I became aware that my appearance affected people's opinion of me. At a

ELLE LOVES
Got extra-large boy trouble? Read this account of dating as a big girl on ELLE.in/fatchance



Silk kimono, jersey top, denim jeans, suede sandals; all her own

wedding when I was 20, I overheard someone talking about me: "Have you seen the middle Bhatia sister? God, she looks a mess even though she's tried to make an effort. Who would ever think she looks good?" Before I'd even had a chance to speak, an assumption was made about me. I wasn't a person to them, I was just fat. I felt worthless and ugly. However innocuous, these bruising moments reinforced every doubt I had about myself, and my fashion dream continued to recede.

And so I pursued a career in law. Ever since I paraded around the house in my dad's wig and gown, I'd wanted to be a barrister like him. Also, his size never seemed to deter him — I think it made him even more terrifying in court. It was all going to plan until I got to law school and hated it. Again, the world of fashion teased at the edges of my imagination. Being fat had become a large shield to hide behind, an excuse not to pursue the things I wanted to. When I went home after completing law school, I decided to take a leap of faith.

My introduction to the world of writing came from my blog, *From Fat To Fit Billie*. My goal was to document my body change. I was determined to show everyone that the fat girl they once knew was now thin and successful; not fat, single and a little bit lost. There were an abundance of health reasons to lose weight, but the main incentive was that I didn't think anyone would take me seriously as I was.

Truthfully, when I was blogging, the topic I found the most natural to write about was plain old me. I felt guilty about it, but the 100,000 blog views suggested I might be doing okay, despite not reaching the weight-loss goals I'd so stringently set. Blogging provided a safe space where I could write things I didn't have the confidence to say out loud: "This is hard", "Life sucks", "I'm scared", "Sorry I ate the last piece of cake". Regardless of what I wrote, there was always a comment that made me feel better.

> *"There was one woman who passed me in the hallway every day and looked me up and down as she seemingly exhaled: 'Who let her in?'"*

The prospect of working in fashion was still terrifying, even with the support from my blog. The way I saw it, if I actually entered that world, there would always be the elephant in the room... namely, me. But if I was going to squeeze myself into the fashion industry, I was going to have to shape it to fit me, not the other way around.

It wasn't easy. When I finally landed my first paid fashion magazine job, aged 23 (after four months of interning), I felt validated — I had made it on my own merit. But of course, I was judged. My colleagues knew nothing about me, my hard work or my two degrees. They just knew one thing: I didn't look like I belonged. It hurt. I felt like I had to work twice as hard as the women with honey-coloured hair and designer wardrobes, just to prove I was as good. There was one woman who passed me in the hallway every day and looked me up and down with an exasperated sigh, as she seemingly exhaled: "Who let her in?" I decided to kill her with kindness by saying hello every morning, though I never got a response.

Once or twice, it got to me. I'd call my mum in tears and ask her why I was putting myself through this humiliation, just to do my job. After some sympathy came the tough love; between my sniffles I heard: "Toughen up', "Thick skin", "Do your best" and "I'm proud of you". It made me realise that I might wear oversized shirts, only be able to walk in sub-three-inch heels, have constantly frizzy hair and always trade in my green juice for a full fat Coke, but hit me with a fashion pop quiz and I will crush it (with my chubby hands and clammy palms).

With some restored confidence, I realised that I was wrong. Fashion is not just for the elite and the sample-sized. My Asos bill proves it. I know that I don't want to wear a crop top and leather trousers, and that Saint Laurent just isn't for me. This season, I am all about the floaty, dreamy Chloé girl. I also know that Karlie Kloss and co are gifts from God and, while we are all self-conscious, we have to focus on the good parts... my eyebrows especially. When it comes to shopping, I don't shy away. I just figured out the styles that suit me: tube skirts, white shirts, floppy jumpers and more swing dresses than a choir.

In the end, I gave up my struggle to find a new dress to wear to the British Fashion Awards and went with what I know — my lace Asos swing dress, Temperley London coat and Carvela boots. No one batted an eyelid at me and that's when I thought: 'I think I fit in now?' I watched the ceremony, then giddily made my way over to the after-party, where I danced with Daisy Lowe, drank with David Gandy and was praised for my style by Hilary Alexander as she sang *Oliver!* songs to me.

I've learnt that there's not just one type of person, no standard look or conventional approach to anything. That's what fashion is about. Finally I've discovered a place where I fit in, and it is the one place I never thought I'd be accepted. ●

Read Billie's blog at *Fromfattofitbillie.blogspot.co.uk*

PURSE STRINGS

__Eddie Borgo__ — known for his punk studded rings and bracelets — takes his sculptural oeuvre further afield into handbag territory. __Arati Menon__ gets the ELLE exclusive

back in January, jeweller Eddie Borgo invited every New York-based fashion director and buyer he knew to his Elizabeth Street studio. The occasion: the unveiling of his first handbag collection. If he was looking for immediate affirmation though, he would've been disappointed. "I learnt fairly early on that everyone came with a preconceived notion about what to expect from me. And when they realised their assumptions were incorrect, they tried to compare it to other brands they knew — and couldn't," he recalls. It wasn't just the '50s-style pocketbook and attaché aesthetic that was unexpected: for a designer celebrated for his edgy and fun — but not fine — jewellery, the move into leather goods was a definitive one into the luxury market.

Few would've predicted Borgo would feel the compunction to extend his brand quite so soon. It had been just over five successful years: the brand was retailing out of 200 stores across the world, including premier retail outlets Le Bon Marché and Lane Crawford; its signature cone bracelets and chain chokers had come to be considered modern classics by fans and Borgo enjoyed unwavering support from a slew of tastemakers, including Tabitha Simmons, Giovanna Battaglia, Carlyne Cerf de Dudzeele and Anna Wintour.

But it was encouragement from further afield in Paris — the global headquarters of one of France's top haute couture houses — that first presented Borgo with the opportunity to get into the handbag game.

Borgo talks of Maureen Chiquet's influence in his brand's journey with both gratitude and modesty. When Borgo won the CDFA Tiffany & Co development grant in 2011 (he was a CDFA runner-up in 2010), he was awarded $1,00,000 in development funds and a mentorship with Chiquet, the global CEO of Chanel. "I was overwhelmed by the idea because Maureen has a reputation for being very tough... but we broke ➤

On Eddie: Jersey T-shirt, denim jeans, felt hat, leather belt; all his own. **On Nidhi:** Cotton shirt, wool skirt; both **Donna Karan**. Gold-plated multi-finger ring, 'Colt' satchel; both **Eddie Borgo**

Photographs **EMILIO MADRID-KUSER** | Styling **JENNY HAAPALA**
Make-Up and Hair **ERIC VOSBURG/ABTP**





the ice over time," he says. It was Chiquet who eventually introduced Borgo to Dirk Bosteels, a handbag veteran who had worked with Karl Lagerfeld, Christian Lacroix and Sonia Rykiel. The introduction was strategic — not long after, Bosteels was appointed director of Eddie Borgo's new leather goods division.

By then, Borgo knew exactly who he wanted as creative head for the new business. The trouble was that she, Sapna Shah, was pursuing non-profit work on a farm in Swaziland, and was far more concerned with sending him "photographs of purple sunsets" than engaging in shop talk. Luckily for him, Shah eventually agreed to the move back to familiar territory — and New York.

A handbag designer who cut her teeth on brands like Rag & Bone and Calvin Klein, Shah seems very much like Borgo's Rorschach split half. They finish each other's sentences, have a shared proclivity for dressing in monochrome, are obsessed with engineering and functionality, and as it turned out when it came time to determine the mood board for the handbag collection, both veered towards icons from the Industrial Revolution. "When we brought our visuals inspirations together, we noticed all these threads of connectivity, and it was uncanny," recalls Shah.

The result of that kinship is a collection inspired by the '50s and '60s, with a nod to the innovations of the Industrial Revolution. Even the names of the styles — a playful take on androgynous American nicknames like Colt and Vic, as well as the colours — green from an automobile chassis and blush from a make-up palette, are very much of the time. Think '50s Americana with its freeways and space rockets, modernist architecture, the seamless interiors of a Cadillac and strong lines of mid-century furniture — all combined with modern functionality. Interior pockets are designed for specific needs: lipstick tubes, credit, metro cards and cell phone and closures can be opened with one hand — designed for a woman on the go. "Women today who are buying into this type of craftsmanship will love these bags as much as objects of art as they will a functioning handbag," explains Borgo. "And that's why it's about so much more that sticking my jewellery on to a clutch and adding a strap."

There's visible pride when he takes apart each bag, explaining the mechanisation behind the aluminum flap and its custom metal slats, the construction of the accordion gusset and arc handles. "I'm pretty sure we're the only ones who use aluminum to lighten the totes — traditional brass or white metal can be quite heavy," he says, adding that it is space shuttle-grade aluminum.

Shah takes over to explain the craftsmanship behind the leatherwork: the complicated truncated pyramid shapes; the seamless fluidity between leather and hardware; the way each bag is designed to be carried three different ways. "It's about her expertise in leather and engineering and my expertise in metal and hardware," Borgo interjects, "A marriage between the two that you don't typically see in handbag construction."

It's an interesting time in the life of the brand. On the one hand, Borgo is valuing up with high-end handbags, and on the other, he just announced a collaboration with Target on a collection of highly customisable fashion jewellery all purchased separately and mixed-and-matched to the user's content with prices as low as $8. "All this only means that there's room to grow up with jewellery division, and with leather goods, space to come down."

Does that mean there's more to come from the leather goods division? Yes, he confirms, small leather goods are definitely on the anvil: "My vision has always been about so much more than designer jewellery. Handbags were an opportunity I couldn't turn down and now I know we can be a full-fledged legacy accessories brand. That's in our future now."



On Eddie: Poplin shirt, wool suit, twill tie; all his own.
On Sapna: Cotton-silk dress, **Céline**. Silver-plated necklace, 'Dean' doctor bag; both **Eddie Borgo**

MODEL: NIDHI SUNIL/WILHELMINA MODELS

EMILIO MADRID-KUSER

WATCH OUT FOR THE AUG-SEPT ISSUE



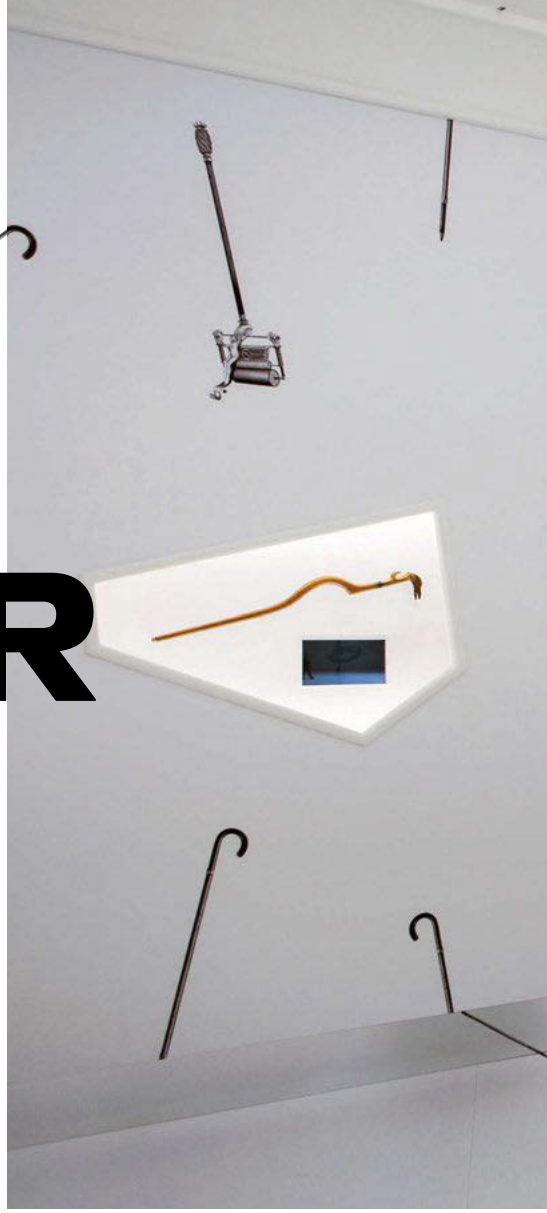
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DREAM WALKER

*The artistic director of **Hermès** invites you to slow down, occupy the moment and believe six impossible things before breakfast.* ***Aishwarya Subramanyam*** *starts at the beginning*

A grey horse's head is sticking its tongue out at me, bubblegum-pink and insolent. An elephant is squashed into a store window, balancing a teapot on his trunk and a tower of bowls with his tail; he does not look happy, but then china is a cruel master. Walking sticks fill a room while a suitably hot French man dances with them. Lampposts stand upside down, and people in city squares are drawn on the walls. A woman is following my footsteps on the floor beneath me, muttering her thoughts out loud, "If she calls me fat one more time..."



THE HERMÈS HAUT À COURROIES BAG FROM 2013, IN ORANGE BULLCALF AND PAINTED HERRINGBONE CANVAS

I find a letter waiting to be posted, addressed to the ever-so-cheery Virginia Woolf at A Room of One's Own in London. Ten minutes are broken off a clock, and the time is stuck at a quarter past eleven. A mannequin starts spinning suddenly, making me jump.

I am in *Wanderland*, and we are all mad here.

The (fake) horse head, you see, is mounted on a wall dotted with Hermès Kellys of all sizes and leathers, accompanied by a child's drawing of mum carrying one. The porcelain guarded by Jumbo is from the Bleus d'Ailleurs S/S 2015 tableware collection, the lampposts hold inside them one-off and vintage Hermès timepieces, and the letter to Woolf (as well as one for Marcel Proust) is accompanied by envelope clutches of Mysore goatskin. This rabbit hole I am in is London's Saatchi Gallery, where tea and cakes



THE ROOM OF WALKING STICKS IN WANDERLAND

are being served by doddering old men in kilts and merry marms with rollers in their hair and a kind word for you, luv.

The *Wanderland* exhibition, which travels to Paris this September, is a playground of whimsy for Pierre-Alexis Dumas, the artistic director of Hermès. An unassuming, quiet man with the face of a child, Dumas' self-effacing exterior belies the firestorm of rascally ideas and oddball humour that rolls through his head, it would seem almost relentlessly. In collaboration with several artists and drawing from both the label's archives and the personal collection of his great-grandfather Emile Hermès, the exhibition is a wholly immersive journey to the heart of the brand, as well as a way to welcome the world into its theme for the year: Flânerie.

The flâneur is a quintessentially Parisian construct, a wanderer whose drifting mind and idle eye keenly grasp the hidden truths around us

The flâneur is a quintessentially Parisian construct, a wanderer of the streets and observer of life and people, whose drifting mind and idle eye keenly grasp the hidden truths that surround us — and frequently evade us. Blissfully free of the modern shackles of productivity and purpose, the flâneur was celebrated in 19th-century French literature, with lyric poet Charles Baudelaire describing him thus in *The Painter Of Modern Life*, "His passion and his profession are to become one flesh with the crowd. For the perfect flâneur, for the passionate spectator, it is an immense joy to set up house in the heart of the multitude, amid the ebb and flow of movement, in the midst of the fugitive and the infinite. To be away from home and yet to feel oneself everywhere at home; to see the world, to be at the centre of the world, and yet to ➤



POP ART CREATED BY BRITISH GRAFFITI ARTIST CEPT

remain hidden from the world."

It is a concept that is almost impossible to fully comprehend in the 21st century. In his soft, gentle way, Dumas says, "I think the problem is that in the world we have constructed and inherited, the world we are all participating in, we lack the time to go deep into any subject. Thinking is not just an obligation, thinking is a source of pleasure. We need to be inspired every day, but to be inspired, we need to think. Or meditate, if you wish. And if you deprive yourself of this, you are hurting yourself."

To fully bring home the idea, Dumas organised a number of meandering strolls around London the day before, encouraging us to explore different boroughs with plenty of time for coffees and cakes and chocolates and sausage rolls and books. I was handed an illustrated map of Marylebone and sent off for a walk. I encountered Sherlock Holmes at the house where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lived and wrote, and met the singing voice of Paul McCartney (in the body of a man in striped blue pyjamas and a yellow robe) outside the room where he wrote 'Yesterday', which he originally called 'Scrambled Eggs'. The day was sunny and the trivia was plentiful, and can I have more, please?

> *"Thinking is not just an obligation, thinking is a source of pleasure. We need to be inspired every day, but to be inspired, you need to think"*

Dumas muses that flânerie is particularly relevant nowadays. When no one has the time for it? He smiles, "It's not something that should be seen as wasting time, it's about encouraging people to enjoy life, try and find the beauty in everything." He likens it to the long-standing Hermès tradition of creating shop windows, which are made to be a sort of theatre in the street, a captured moment to transport people, to smile at before returning to their lives. Talking about the thought behind

the London walks, Dumas adds, "I think we human beings, we build big cities, and attempt uniformity. But even in a big city, nothing is uniform, as you saw for yourself. There are a lot of peculiarities, because individuals are peculiar."

Things do get curiouser back in the Café of Forgotten Objects (Le Café des Objets Oubliés), where an upturned chair on a table becomes the setting for a circular game of chess, and glass bottles serve as displays for a silver lipstick tube from 1960, a bag-shaped MacPherson pillbox from 1990, coin purses in the shape of lemons, pears and peaches from 1989. A tiny dancer twirls in a teacup, the bottom of an ashtray is a keyhole into a world where a card game is in progress, a tennis racket pillbox from 1981 is embedded into a table, and the little pot of blue in a watercolour box of paints carries an ocean. Littered with the 'failures' of the brand, items that weren't great commercial successes, this is my favourite part of the exhibition, not least because it has the familiar feel of a Harry Potter book.

Seems apt when you consider that all Dumas wants is to awaken the curious kid inside all of us. "We are all children, just older," he says. "Children know exactly what this is about, they come here and they start to play right away. If adults can unlock our wonder and dream for an hour, we can look at life a little differently. It's a bit like cinema, you know. I'm of the generation where going to the cinema was a big thing. It wasn't just about watching the film, it was about interacting with a lot of people, laughing collectively."

It is not without reason that Dumas has a philosopher on his creative team. "He's not just a philosopher," he chuckles, "he's also our spell-checker." Much of a modern philosopher himself, Dumas is dismayed by our shared reliance on technology to lose ourselves in, "We need to smell, we need to watch, we need to touch, we have a fantastic sensorial apparatus that we need to use. We must try to be present in the moment, without worrying about anything."



CHARACTERS YOU MIGHT MEET IN THE CURATED FLÂNEUR WALKS AROUND LONDON

Next door, celebrated British graffiti artist Cept floods the room with pop, inspired by the bold swathes of colour on the Haut à Courroies bag from 2013. I stop to marvel at a motorcycle helmet from 1970 sheathed in mink, a Leica-Hermès camera covered in Barénia calfskin, a saddle of yellow silk and velvet lambskin, a goatskin-covered radio from 1960, and a goldfish peeking out of a bird feeder. It is the weirdest and most enlightening history lesson I have ever had.

I've also decided I quite adore Dumas, whose connection with India runs deep into childhood, and whose shyness hides both an unfettered imagination and great vision for the brand. "I didn't choose to be born in this family, but I chose to work in this family, and I don't take it for granted," he says. "I saw my father work hard to make Hermès what it was when he left us, and I think we have to till the land. I want to keep questioning Hermès, to really understand what it is about, what it stands for."

I hope he never stops questioning, and that his looking glass keeps showing us things not as they are, but as they could never be. In the meanwhile, there's a giant top-hatted gentleman on artificial legs bounding about the place that I want to flirt with, and a guy in a *Birdman* mask of whom I have some questions to ask. Excuse me while I have a wander.



THE WALL OF VINTAGE KELLYS

MATERIAL WORLD

__Abraham & Thakore__ and __AM.IT__'s Amit Aggarwal and Amit Hansraj are giving recycling a whole new fashion context, each with their signature flourish. ***Simran Bhalla*** *reports*



Photographs **NISHANTH RADHAKRISHNAN** | Styling **ARUSHI PARAKH**



From left, on Rakesh: Cotton shirt, denim jeans, canvas trainers, acetate sunglasses, all his own. **On Preeti**: Wool and polyester coat, cotton pants, leather wedges; all **Abraham & Thakore**. **On David**: Cotton shirt, cotton trousers, leather trainers: all his own.

On Amit A: Cotton shirt, denim jeans, leather trainers, all his own. **On Preeti**: Wool T-shirt, twill and straw dress, rubber boots; all **AM.IT**. **On Amit H**: Cotton shirt, denim jeans, canvas high-top trainers; all his own

Organic. Handloom. Pure. To buy a piece of clothing with one, or all, of these words on the label means something. You're not indulging in wasteful consumerism. You can be stylish while remaining mindful of your impact on the environment. But too often, 'eco-conscious clothing' is just words on a label. Just lip service to the idea these words represent, rather than actual practice. Everybody scoffs at synthetics now, and too few designers take the time to point out that eco-friendly and natural don't always mean the same thing. "Cotton is one of the most damaging materials on this planet. Man-made fibres may not have such a violent footprint as cotton," says David Abraham of Abraham & Thakore. At Amazon India Fashion Week F/W 2015-16, they were one of two labels that presented lines that hinged on the reuse-and-recycle philosophy by drawing on our native practice of kantha, crafting new materials out of the old. AM.IT (prounounced 'I'm it'), by Amit Aggarwal and Amit Hansraj, were the other. The team's new label, which is aimed at a younger, more experimental audience, turned everyday plastic into design accents. I met all four on a rare overcast day at Bonne Bouche in Delhi to discuss the ideas behind the clothes.

Aesthetically, the lines are radically different. Abraham & Thakore gave modern structure to the salwar kameez, reworking scrap fabrics into new materials, which had greater tactility and a subtle glint. AM.IT presented inkblot imagery and mutated silhouettes in the brand's debut show in India (they had taken their S/S 15 line to Paris). However, they are rooted in similar philosophies. Both duos found starting points in Indian design concepts that are universally resonant. For Amit Aggarwal and Amit Hansraj, it was the bindi. Hansraj says it is a symbol that is "Indian, but globally recognised." (Abraham and Thakore murmur their assent — they will soon expand on their own adaptation of this idea.) Aggarwal adds, "But the idea wasn't to use it as a motif or emblem, but to push the story forward." So instead of the red dot that has, over the decades, danced from your dadi's forehead to Gwen Stefani's, they dyed discarded bindi sheets to use as fabric. To create volume, they layered textiles and used plastic straws which, as Aggarwal reminds me, are bindis in 3D. The result is the conversion of the old and disposable into something ultra-modern and covetable. "Our language is modern," Hansraj says. "Amit looks to the future whenever he's doing anything." Aggarwal demurs slightly, saying he prefers the word "unknown" for his design explorations. "Something that is new to you isn't necessarily the future, nor futuristic."

David Abraham and Rakesh Thakore have always begun their process by looking at traditional Indian crafts and textiles. (Last year, they worked with tussar.) Abraham says, "We can root a concept in something with which we're familiar, and also which provides us with enough material to build a collection. An idea needs to have enough substance so you can take it across more than one season." For the duo, there need to be both philosophical and practical incentives to pursue a theme: "When we started studying kantha, we realised it was all about recycling — the patching of old saris together for cradle cloths, coverings, blankets. That was one conversation. The other was the necessity of having to put together a collection suitable for fashion week." In the true spirit of kantha, they went on to use a combination of materials, without restricting themselves to just natural fabrics. "The traditional kanthas were all cotton and voile, and saris, but we also looked at a lot of polyester, nylon. Those are not biodegradable, so they need to be recycled. That became a part of the design language," says Abraham. Abraham and Thakore don't believe that used-and-refashioned clothes result in a loss of luxury; if anything, it's the opposite. Thakore says, "It's important to remember that

ABRAHAM & THAKORE



"Anything handmade is luxurious. Luxury lies in the refinement of the technique and how it's been adapted and taken forward"

— RAKESH THAKORE

anything handmade is luxurious. Luxury is in the refinement of the technique and how it's been adapted and taken forward."

Abraham is skeptical of the rhetoric around pure and organic fabrics: "Everyone gets very carried away — 'oh, cotton is organic.' To grow cotton you contaminate the soil for decades." To try to restore the balance, he believes designers should reuse these materials rather than confine them to eternal junkyards. Yet at the level of mass production (rather than for smaller, niche lines) creating synthetic fabrics requires toxic agricultural processes and massive amounts of water. Abraham is of the opinion that "it's one thing to be sustainable and responsible", but "the romantic stuff" of wanting all-natural designer clothing shouldn't cloud everything else. "Even when we did brocade, we used synthetics. We mix and match." He and Thakore contend that while kantha and recyclability were very much at the core of their thinking, they didn't want it to be "a huge message".

"We completely agree with what David says," says Hansraj, nodding. He emphasises the practical concerns that went into designing this (and any) collection. "That's exactly our process. You want it to be commercially viable. We are not trying to be preachy about it. We want to use interesting material." Once they had found those, Aggarwal wanted a larger canvas, resulting in his abstract shapes. New materials led to clothes that were, he says, "tactile and breathable." Abraham and Thakore, meanwhile, looked to more classic shapes in creating their collection — specifically, the salwar kameez. Abraham says that part of the motivation behind this is because he's "fascinated" by the garment, and part is because he and Thakore feel that high fashion in general is increasingly looking to the East, where new buyers lie. (Remember Chanel's Paris-Bombay show? And, as Abraham tells me, "When I was in Hong Kong, all the clothes in the Valentino windows looked like they belonged to some Chinese amma.") They believe that the salwar kameez is both part of the Indian design language as well as an item with universal appeal. "It's a tunic and pants with a scarf," says Abraham. He and Thakore have brought a Western, mechanical ease to it: "We put cuffs on the trousers, which are darted and zipped." This is paired with handiwork and detail that is indigenous. The result is a line that has its roots in India, but translates across cultures.

> *"Something that is new to you isn't necessarily the future, nor futuristic"*
>
> — AMIT AGGARWAL



AM.IT

Given their emphasis on pragmatism, I ask both pairs exactly how time- and labour-intensive these lines were, given they did things like source old X-Rays from AIIMS to turn into paillettes (A&T). Thakore says that for their take on kantha, the work was quite elaborate, as "the initial stages take time," and Aggarwal is quick to agree: "The idea is what took us a long time. Once we had the momentum, it got quicker." Hansraj interjects, laughing, "Everything in our studio takes forever." Can unique pieces like these be easily reproduced, I wonder. For Abraham and Thakore, what they design for a runway show — which they consider an exhibition space for ideas — is not necessarily what makes it into the stores. "If we can translate it into something we can produce commercially, that's good; if we can't, we can't. I don't really bother about it too much," says Abraham. Meanwhile, their ready-to-wear collections continue apace. Aggarwal and Hansraj, on the other hand, say that they are producing the adventurous pieces from their F/W 2015-16 show for sale, at prices far, far lower than the couture line (from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 18,000): "The crazier pieces sell more!" Hansraj claims. However, they agree that the runway show is a place to play with new concepts and to establish a voice. As Abraham says, "A show should be used to communicate ideas. Those ideas are part of the brand." Thakore nods, getting to the heart of the matter: "You can't just keep repeating yourself."

MAKE-UP AND HAIR: SAVLEEN MANCHANDA;
MODEL: PREETI DHATA

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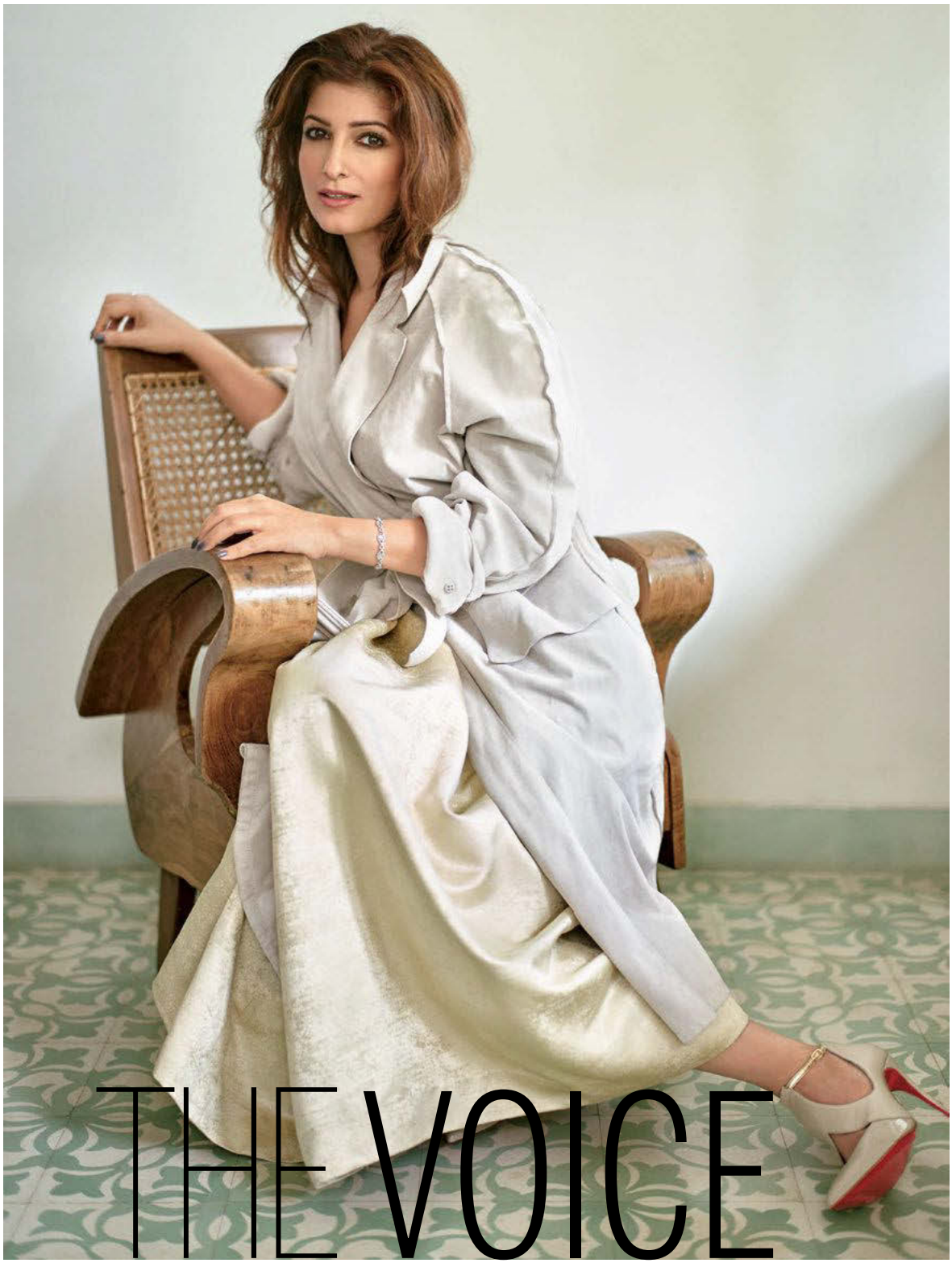


Twinkle Khanna glows in mellow pastels and ladylike silhouettes, model-on-the-rise, Bella Hadid, shows that curves are back (in figure-hugging black numbers), and fashion's looking East for kimono-dressing inspiration

Polyester mesh dress, ₹ 1,18,630, **Maticevski**. Gold and diamond bracelet, price on request, **Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri**

R BURMAN

FOR DETAILS, SEE ADDRESS BOOK



THE VOICE

__Twinkle Khanna__ burst onto our timelines with freshness, frankness and endless chuckles, and her first book only gets more wicked. __Cheryl-Ann Couto__ meets Mrs Funnybones

Photographs **R BURMAN** | Styling **NIDHI JACOB**

Art Director **RESHMA RAJIWDEKAR** | Make-up and Hair **NAMRATA SONI**



Suede trench coat, ₹ 2,12,367, **Bottega Veneta**. Silk skirt, ₹ 25,000, **Atsu**. Leather pointed-toe pumps, ₹ 71,500, **Christian Louboutin**. Gold and diamond earrings, ₹ 2,60,000, **Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers**. Gold and diamond bracelet, ₹ 4,12,430, **Entice**. Gold and diamond ring, price on request, **Mahesh Notandass Fine Jewellery**



Wool blazer, ₹ 76,882, embroidered net skirt, ₹ 6,59,645, leather belt, ₹ 17,964; all **Michael Kors**. Leather and metal sling-back pumps, ₹ 69,070, **Charlotte Olympia**. Metal and stone bracelet, price on request, **Dior**

R BURMAN

If I had my way, the business of taking offence would be regulated. Under my auspices, to find effrontery and then avail of it, you'd have to go through the necessary paperwork. Submit an application to the ministry, pay the nominal fee, produce notarised records and referrals, be interviewed by a bored officer on a workday morning after waiting for two hours — and then sit tight for however long it takes to hear back.

Twinkle Khanna would be in charge of translating this ministry's terrifying and ridiculous operations to the public, in the way only she can — with rollicking wordplay, wicked inferences and enough insouciance so even critical thought feels like it could get several Facebook likes. I'm not sure the homemaker, entrepreneur, newspaper columnist, star wife and now author would have time for another day job, but I have it on good authority that a batch of soya chakli from Neelam Foodland in Mumbai could sweeten the deal.

It's a fairly disgusting morning in South Mumbai when she shoots with ELLE — blotty skies, backed-up traffic and an overall feeling of armpit — but 40-year-old Khanna manages not to get any on her. She's practically pastel with summer, her milk-and-roses skin flushed ever so slightly and flicks of russet hair firing up her dark, intelligent eyes. You expect aloofness; instead there's guffaws and theatrical sighing about all this fashion stuff we're making her do. When the camera comes on, though, she knows just where she wants to take her frothy, marzipan-pink Kenzo to; and her regular-woman's body obliges, beautifully.

"People always say that the way I look and the way I speak are at complete odds," she chuckles later, while I interview her on the drive back to the suburbs. I'd have to agree. Those sculpted blowouts and art-gallerist threads don't automatically suggest a penchant for anatomical humour. But at the bottom of her latest column about Maggi's heartbreaking deception, which came out the day before, is a penis joke ("We are getting rather tired of being let down by two-minutes noodles, both in the bedroom and in the kitchen as well," she signs off). I congratulate her for it. "Thanks," she seems genuinely pleased, and hands me half a paneer sandwich.

Khanna has played her hand in the zeitgeist for the first time in 15 years since she turned off her microphone and receded into the wings of Bollywood. And whether it's her natural talent, the unexpected quarter it comes from, or the patina of celebrity — or all of the above — it has taken. Her national columns, keenly observed and casually disbursed "semi-fictional social and political satires," have made her a name to drop the way a career in the movies or being related to movie stars (she is the daughter of Rajesh Khanna and Dimple Kapadia, and married to Akshay Kumar), never did. Surrogacy, freedom of speech, sanitary napkins, Narendra Modi's sartorial stylings and other deeply concerning subjects are all put through the Twinkle Khanna grinder every other week, and when they reach you, they've lost all their graveness, and none of their gravity. The proof is in the fandom. She's running into admirers everywhere she goes. *Everywhere*. "I went to get my ovaries checked the other day and after she put the probe inside me, the lady leaned over to say, 'I really like your column'. I said, 'That's wonderful, but um, you could you take this out of me and then we could talk?'" And next month, we can look forward to more than 500 words at a time, when her first book, *Mrs Funnybones*, "based and structured on the columns", comes out. "It's about how a modern woman looks at India and how India looks right back at her," she says. Well? What does she see? "A bewildering contradiction," she answers. "We're the first Asian country to reach Mars and we're still looking at the moon for the good health of our husbands."

Here's what I like most about Twinkle Khanna, though: she recognises the life-giving properties of silliness (puns are hunted and shot down into sentences; quips come in volleys) and doesn't worry too much about everything having to mean something. Try to get too ponderous and she'll kill the romance with monosyllables. I poke for the answer for why, after years of seeing her, we're only now hearing her. Is it the good kind of midlife crisis? "There's no reason. I've been a voracious reader my whole life. You imbibe so many thoughts and slowly you find what you think within that." Pinning down those thoughts — almost all to do with big, polarising matters of national interest — pointing them towards the ether and then hitting 'send' has got to be scary, especially for a public figure. "No." See? "I've cared so little about what people think of me," she says. "Perhaps the media doesn't know it, but everyone in the industry does. I've always said whatever I've wanted to; I didn't know how to play with my words before, actually. A lot of people found me rude, but now those same people find me funny. If anything, I've tempered with time."

> *"My husband is the first to read my column. He's removed the word 'Pakistan' from at least five of them, and 'catholic priest' from the last one"*

Littered across her columns are jokes about how "the man of the house" takes her public forthrightness — like a good-natured schoolmarm, apparently, grumbling diligently but glowing with pride. "My husband is very proud of me. He's the first to read my column when I'm done. He's removed the word 'Pakistan' from at least five of them, and 'catholic priest' from the last one," she says, and adds quickly, "It's a good thing! Left to my own devices I could get into a lot of trouble." Penis jokes have his approval, mercifully. "He thought that was funny. He has a great sense of what works, you know," she says. "When he read the one about the AIB Roast, he said 'This is going to do well.'"

He was right, to say the least. She wasn't messing about with that one. No drawn-out puns, sweetly sarcastic musings or mumbled dissent; just neat, focused slicing — into the hypocrisy, short-sightedness and ➤



Embroidered cotton dress, ₹ 26,950, **Payal Pratap**. Gold and diamond ring, price on request, **Diacolor**. Gold and diamond bracelet, price on request, **Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri**

R BURMAN



danger of penalising performers for a live show she didn't happen to care much for herself.

I belong to the unpopular minority that believes 'freedom of speech' is just as often the war cry of bullies and halfwits, but I also don't want them to be burnt alive for it. We're dismissed as weak moderates in these discussions, so I'm pleased to find she's with me on this. "Freedom of speech has to be absolute, sadly," she says. "But there is a line to be drawn and that line is defined by, and different for, each individual. That's what makes the whole thing so hard." Now more than ever, Khanna has to contend with the fine line between satire, sermonising and sensitivity. "Filters are important. I write so much now that when I speak, I'm always looking for the perfect word. It's a discipline, to pick your words."

Much harder, I imagine, when you have to begin at home. I carefully bring up the exactly opposite tenor and thrust of her and her husband's chosen trades. His big-ticket jamborees, cut and curated to gather maximum mass appeal. Her niche, stylish activism, like bittersweet medicine, meant to redirect attention to stark reality. She's not even a film buff, she says, unless it's science fiction or has got her husband in it. Love and caution have got to be the ways to engage with each other's worlds. "Our ideologies are very different. The things that we talk about are very different," she agrees. "But we look up to each other for our different abilities. I do point out things in his films that, as a man, he might not pick up on. But he's then free to do what he wants with that information. It's the same the other way around." She makes it sound so easy. "It *is* easy," she says. "I've been married 14 years and it has taken time and effort to make it this easy."

> *"Marriage is easy. I've been married 14 years and it has taken time and effort to make it this easy"*

At present, Khanna writes two national columns that come out within weeks of each other, and having finished work on the upcoming book a few months ago, she's already nose-deep in the second, a collection of fictional short stories. "When you're writing fiction you're making up something completely from scratch, and you worry about being able to do it again and again," she says. Ah, the paralysing angst of a writer faced with a blank page, this I understand. She has no idea what I'm talking about. In fact, writing, she fears, is slowly replacing her more than decade-old, daily practice of yoga, the closest thing she has to a spiritual practice. "Yoga has helped calm me because I am a naturally aggressive, hyper person. And now writing, every single day, is having a similar effect. When you're writing you go away from yourself. You're dealing with your mind but it's not really about you, it's a whole other universe. I feel almost completely at peace, in that hour or two that I spend."

Khanna knew she wanted to write pretty much since childhood. She tells me she used to maintain a file of her "really, really bad" poems as a little girl and by 16, was several chapters into her first book. "It was called *Maya And Magic*, about the adventures of a girl who goes to live with her Aga Khani grandmother who is trying to get her married to different suitors. She tells her things like 'Meenakshi Seshadri rejected this man, now you rush and get him!'" What rare fortune to have your calling made known to you so clearly, so early. Slightly less fortunate when it's the furthest thing from the much more lucrative family business.

"I would keep getting film offers because of my family and my mum said, 'For a girl your age, to make that kind of money would be incredible.' I thought that made sense because my mother was single-handedly looking after us," she says. Thrusting in the rain with Bobby Deol with your mind (*Barsaat*, 1995), while your heart says iambic pentameter — nobody should have to go through that. The direct fame made it a little worse. "I was born in a fish bowl, so being in a fish bowl wasn't special for me at all. That was not an ideal attitude to have to be in showbiz: hiding."

Khanna didn't choose the fish bowl she was born into, but she did choose the one she now swims in by marrying Akshay Kumar, after they met on the sets of the two terrible films — *International Khiladi* and *Zulmi* — they did together in '99. Doesn't he bring with him everything she left behind all those years ago? Media scrutiny, long jaunts away from the fam — "My husband comes home at 6.30 every evening," she sniggers. "Even when he's shooting. In this fish bowl, I can choose if I want to hide behind a rock or swim to the surface." Marriage, becoming a mom, entrepreneurship (she owns the Mumbai décor store, The White Window) were some of the things that filled the two decades before she finally pursued a childhood dream. The lag doesn't rankle her even a little. Since we got into the car, she's asked for the time thrice already, because she wants to be home before 12-year-old Aarav comes back from school. Her children — daughter Nitara is ickle at just two — consume her.

"Maybe learning how to relax and kick back," is the new thing she wants to try next. She'll be bad at it, from the look of how many other things fascinate her — gardening, design, science, becoming the writer she always dreamt she'd be (she doesn't see a Booker in her future, though: "My name is Twinkle. I have no chance"). Her forties look set to be her most invigorating decade yet. She laughs. "I had a plan in my head, that I was going to be 60, move to Goa, try mind-altering substances and write. I had it down to having short nails, white hair and wearing only white kurtas. It just happened 20 years earlier! Not the substances, though. Maybe I'll save those for when I'm about to die." ●

Twinkle Khanna's book *Mrs Funnybones* (Penguin Random House India) is out on August 18

R BURMAN



Cotton coat, ₹ 7,000, **Kaleekal**. Ribbed polyester top, ₹ 64,121, skirt, ₹ 71,538; both **Stella McCartney**. Studded leather T-bar sandals, ₹ 65,500, **Jimmy Choo**. Gold and diamond ring, price on request, **NAC Jewellers** for **Forevermark Red Carpet Collection**

PRODUCTION: PARUL MENEZES; ASSISTED BY: ARTI NAYAR (MAKE-UP AND HAIR), AKANKSHA KAMATH, SAARAA UTTANWALA (STYLING); LOCATION COURTESY: ABODE, BOMBAY



TOKYO DRIFT

Kimono robes, Oriental prints, rich colour and cinched-in silhouettes — embrace the style spirit of the land of the rising sun

Photographs **TARUN VISHWA** | Styling **MALINI BANERJI**
Make-up and Hair **DEEPA VERMA** | Set Design **PETER D'ASCOLI**



Silk and satin gown, ₹1,25,000, **Atsu**



Silk wrap blouse and obi belt; both prices on request, **Sanskar** by **Sonam Dubal**. Embroidered silk kimono jacket, price on request, **Swati Kalsi**. Pleated georgette headgear, price on request, **Alpana Neeraj**

TARUN VISHWA



Printed silk wrap dress, ₹ 20,000, **Sanskar** by **Sonam Dubal**. Cotton and polyester coat, ₹ 67,678, poly-cot trousers, ₹ 49,154; both **Kenzo**. Hand-embroidered wool stole (worn as an obi belt), ₹ 50,000, **Ashdeen**. Leather cord belt, ₹ 6,500, **Rara Avis** by **Sonal Verma**. Leather flatforms, price on request, **Salvatore Ferragamo**. Cotton socks, stylist's own



Neoprene jacquard blouse, ₹ 56,273, **Marni** at ***Thecorner.com***. Satin pants, ₹ 6,000, **Guapa**. Hand-embroidered stole (worn as belt), ₹ 30,000, **Ashdeen**. Leather cord belt, ₹ 6,500, **Rara Avis** by **Sonal Verma**

TARUN VISHWA



Silk dress, ₹ 1,28,021, **Fendi**. Silk-satin obi belt, ₹ 4,000, **AM:PM** by **Ankur** and **Priyanka Modi**. Neoprene belt (worn on head), price on request, **Alpana Neeraj**



Cotton shirt dress, chanderi silk blouse; both prices on request, **Ikai** by **Ragini Ahuja**. Velvet ribbon, wooden chopsticks; both stylist's own. Ceramic bowl, ₹ 3,285 (for a set of 5), **FCML**

TARUN VISHWA





Printed chiffon dress, price on request, **Sabyasachi** by **Sabyasachi**. Cotton kimono, ₹15,880, **Kallol Datta 1955**. Satin belt, price on request, **Atsu**. Cotton cushion , ₹1400, **Safomasi**. Embroidered scarf, price on request, **Ashdeen**

TARUN VISHWA



Cotton shirt dress, chanderi silk blouse; both prices on request, **Ikai** by **Ragini Ahuja**. Velvet ribbon, stylist's own



Silk-organza maxi dress, ₹ 17,380, **AM:PM** by **Ankur** and **Priyanka Modi**. Satin belt, price on request, **Atsu**. Cotton kimono, ₹ 18,800, **11.11/eleven eleven**

TARUN VISHWA



Neoprene crop top and skirt; both prices on request, **Alpana Neeraj**. Plastic necklace, ₹ 16,070, **Vaskolg** at **Second Floor Studio**

MODEL: MARIIA/ANIMA
CREATIVE MANAGEMENT;
ASSISTED BY: ARUSHI PARAKH, LINNOTHA JAJO;
PAINT PARTNER: ASIAN PAINTS;
FLOWERS COURTESY: FLORALS BY THE FLAGSHIP STORE, FERNS N PETALS;
CARPETS COURTESY: THE CARPET CELLAR



Viscose sweater, acrylic and lycra skirt; both **Balmain**. Nylon fishnet tights, **Wolford**. Embossed leather belt, **Saint Laurent** by **Hedi Slimane**

Photographs **DAVID BELLEMERE** | Styling **SAMIRA NASR**
Make-up **KAORU OKUBO/MANAGEMENT + ARTISTS** | Hair **BRIAN BUENAVENTURA/MANAGEMENT + ARTISTS**



BODY LANGUAGE

*On-the-rise beauty **Bella Hadid** lends her fascinating frame to the season's sheer, shapely fashion*

Wool crêpe and satin jacket and trousers; both **Pallas Paris**. Nylon fishnet tights, **Wolford**. Leather boots, **Giuseppe Zanotti**. Rose gold necklace, **Kismet** by **Milka** (worn throughout). Enamel pendant with gold chain, **Solange Azagury-Partridge** (worn throughout)



Lace bodysuit,
Fleur du Mal.
Leather boots,
Giuseppe Zanotti

DAVID BELLEMERE



Wool-crêpe top, wool trousers; both **Céline**. Silk-lace slip, lace bra; both **Carine Gilson**



Tulle gown, **Valentino**. Nylon fishnet tights, **Wolford**. Leather boots, **Giuseppe Zanotti**

DAVID BELLEMERE



Tweed dress, **Bouchra Jarrar**. Nylon fishnet tights, **Wolford**. Leather boots, **Giuseppe Zanotti**



Embroidered felt coat, velvet jersey swimsuit; both **Chanel**. Nylon fishnet tights, **Wolford**

DAVID BELLEMERE



Velvet jacket, **Vionnet**



Silk scarf, **Jean Paul Gaultier**. Wool-silk pants, **Tom Ford**

DAVID BELLEMERE



Leather dress, **Saint Laurent** by **Hedi Slimane**. Nylon fishnet tights, **Wolford**

MODEL: BELLA HADID/IMG MODELS; MANICURE: MAKI SAKAMOTO/KATE RYAN INC; CASTING: STEFANIE KOENIG/ ZAN CASTING; ASSISTED BY: YASHUA SIMMONS

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TOP TRENDS, HOT BUYS, EXPERT TIPS & HEALTH HOW-TOS

Get the lowdown on Huma Qureshi's curve-loving pilates workout, wear nail art the grown-up way and find your sleep sweet-spot



Mesh bodysuit, ***Koovs.com***. Mesh bomber jacket, **adidas Originals**. Lycra and mesh tights, **Nike**. Metal earring, **Vegavaan by Karma**

MANASI SAWANT

OH, SNAP!

Dress your digits in muted colours and modern shapes, says ***Sophie Beresiner***



Leather and resin bag, ₹ 62,700, **Tonya Hawkes**; **Burberry** Nail Polish in Dark Trench, ₹ 1,350

ELLE INSIDER
Chipping, brittle nails? Get your tips in shape with ELLE.in/nailcare

SHADES OF GREY

Update grey nail polish with an alternative ombré effect by painting each nail in a different shade of it. Try **Rimmel** 60 Seconds Nail Polish in Little Bo Peep, ₹ 255; **YSL** La Laque Couture in Beige Gallery, price on request; **OPI** Nail Lacquer in Dark Side of the Mood, ₹ 520.

Photographs **AARON TILLEY** | Styling **DONNA WALLACE**
Manicure **ADAM SLEE/STREETERS LONDON**



PINK PANTHER

Wearing a muddied, muted pink is the way to sidestep saccharine; it's feminine but not twee. Try **Maybelline New York** Color Show in Constant Candy, ₹ 75. Then use **M·A·C** Shadow Top Coat, ₹ 950; to knock the shade back a tone or two for that dirty finish. Rawr.

Tom Ford Lip Color Sheer in Firecracker, ₹ 3,560

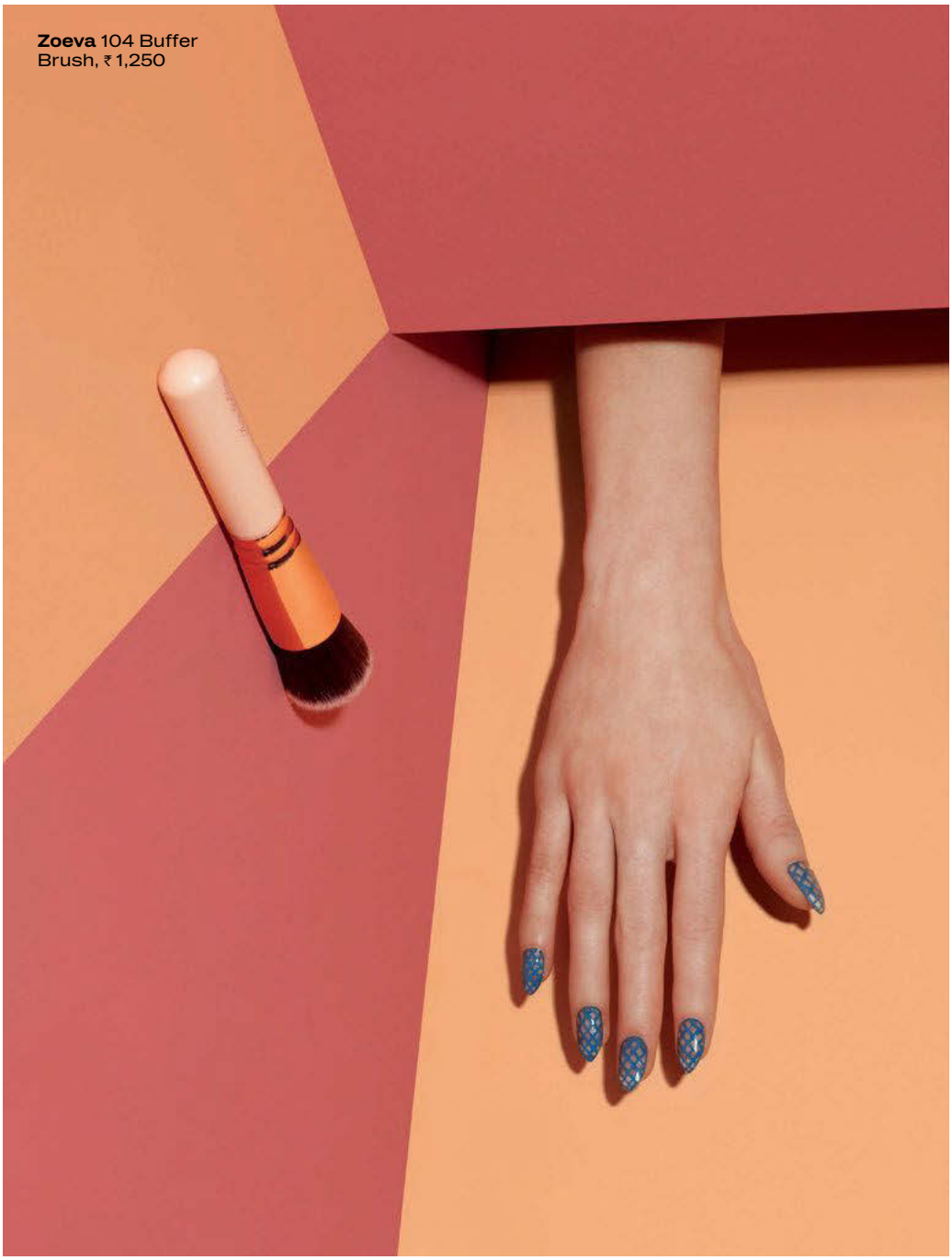
SO MANY FEELS

Creamy caramels get a sophisticated edge with dual textures. Start with **Inglot** Nail Enamel in 57, ₹ 600; and layer it with **L'Oréal Paris** Top Coat in 915, ₹ 299. Once dry, use the **LYN** Nail Art Pen in Thin Gold, price on request, to draw a sharp V on the tips.



Gold-plated brass and enamel bracelet, ₹ 58,800, **Stella McCartney**

AARON TILLEY



GRAPHIC DETAIL

File nails to a squared point, then use a fine brush to draw a crisscross pattern. Finish with a fine trace of polish around the outline of your nail, and a high shine top coat. Try **Revlon** Colorstay Nail Enamel in Indigo Night, ₹ 350; although any navy or deep grey would work.



Leather bag, ₹ 86,900, **Chloé**

UP IN THE AIR

'Floating' nail art – where the design hovers over a naked base – was a big story on the catwalk this season. It's best showcased in fresh shades, like this **Sally Hansen** Miracle Gel Nail Polish in Sugar Fix, ₹ 375. The trick? Paint the whole nail, then erase the half-moon near the cuticle with a Q-tip.

AARON TILLEY

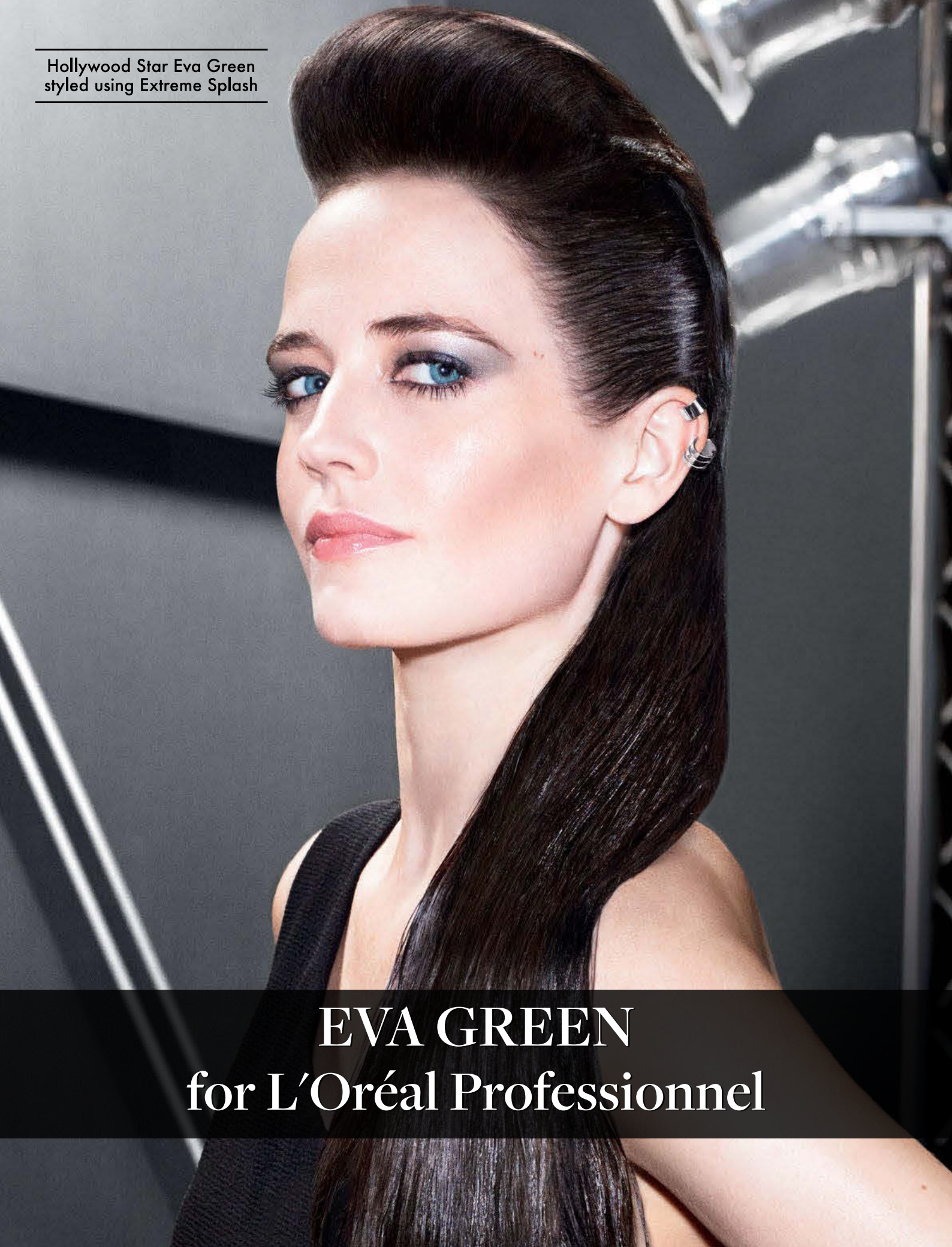


From top: Gold-plated brass and quartz ring, ₹ 6,320, **Isharya**. Gold, brass and strass ring (on finger), ₹ 17,298, **Tod's**. Enamel and gold-plated bracelet, ₹ 35,092, **I AM** by **Ileana Makri**

DRAW THE LINE

Putty shades are refreshed with a sharp white contrast. If you're going to do art, keep the design simple. You can try **Max Factor** Glossfinity in Opal, ₹ 395; and draw the white lines with **Bourjois Paris** So Laque in Cotton Sur Ton, ₹ 470.

SET DESIGN: THOMAS BIRD;
MODEL: KATERYNA AT HIRED HANDS



Hollywood Star Eva Green
styled using Extreme Splash

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BY INCHES

*Celebrity pilates trainer **Radhika Karle** shows actor **Huma Qureshi** how to lose weight the right way — without compromising on curves, finds **Sophia Ann French***

"I don't practise pilates to look good, I do it to feel good," says Huma Qureshi, about her training with Mumbai-based nutrition and pilates expert Radhika Karle. "I want to lose weight well, by building strength and muscle." The actor will begin shooting her next film, based on Hollywood's *Oculus* (2013), in less than a month, along with her brother Saqib Saleem (they play siblings in the movie, too). She won't divulge much about her on-screen character; only that she's never played a similar role before and that it requires her to be very fit without blitzing her Botticellian curves. And for Qureshi, crash diets are out of the question: "I don't believe in starving myself to reach an ideal number on the weighing scale." Pilates happens to be tailored to exactly what she needs. "What makes pilates special is that it works on realigning your body to the way it was when you were born. Bad posture and lifestyle destroys the body's basic alignment and pilates corrects this," says Karle. "It isn't about losing weight aimlessly. I make sure the people who train with me reach their ideal body weight."

This workout was founded by Joseph Pilates, a professional boxer and self-defence trainer, who blended eastern (yoga, tai chi) and western (weight training) systems to develop a form of rehab exercise for wounded soldiers during World War I. "So it isn't just cardio or toning, it's about building intrinsic awareness too. When Pilates moved from Germany to New York, several dancers went to his studio (at the time, he called his exercises and the studio Contrology) for training and rehabilitation, and you can still see the influence in the exercises. All the movements are focused on lengthening the body and stretching," explains Karle.

HUMA'S DAILY DIET

OATMEAL BREAKFAST
3 tbsp oats
2/3 cup low fat, probiotic yoghurt
OR
almond milk
1/2 grated apple
2 chopped dates
Mix all the above in a bowl

MID-MORNING SNACK
1 cup pomegranate

LUNCH
1 cup salad (all raw vegetables with dressing made from 1/3 cup Greek yoghurt)
1 cup cooked vegetables (grilled/sautéed/stir fry)
100 g chicken (tandoori/grilled/BBQ)

PRE-PILATES SNACK
1 banana

POST-PILATES SNACK
1 banana
Whey protein

EVENING SNACK
3 egg whites (any way you like) with 1/4 cup sautéed mushrooms, spinach and bell peppers

DINNER (LATEST BY 7:30 PM)
1 bowl vegetable soup (homemade)
1/2 cup cooked vegetables
100 g cooked chicken or fish (knock out the fish during the monsoon)
1 tsp oil for cooking dinner

CORE VALUE

"I discovered muscles I didn't know I had," laughs Qureshi, recalling her first class with Karle. It takes just the first hour to jolt your system into awareness because pilates works on your core. "Your core is the powerhouse of your body and the stronger it is, the stronger the rest of your body will be," says Karle. She begins with foot work to warm up before moving to the calorie-killing routines. "The exercises are full-body integration moves so you work on at least 10 to 15 muscles. For example, when you do a back extension on the ladderbarrel (an apparatus used in pilates) you're strengthening your glutes, hamstrings and hip flexors; working your core; stretching your abdominal muscles and the lower-back muscles. Then we add in scapular stabilisation exercises so even your arms and upper body are involved. Scapular stabilisers work all the way from your rotator cuff muscles in the shoulder blade to the upper arm bone (humerus or our funny bone). These movements tone and create length, which is why you get a more curved and lean body rather than a muscle-y, blocky body," she says. ➤

ELLE active

Salad too boring? Find three recipes from Radhika Karle to spice up your healthy meal plan at ELLE.in/eatright

Photograph **MANASI SAWANT** | Styling **ALISHA NETALKAR**
Creative Director **PRASHISH MORE**

MAKE-UP AND HAIR: MITESH RAJANI; HAIR: AMIT THAKUR (HUMA)



On Huma: Mesh bodysuit, ***Koovs.com***. Lycra and mesh tights, **Nike**. On Radhika: Jersey top and leggings; both **Zara**. Nylon sneakers, **Nike**. Gold earrings, **The Line**



ELLE RECOMMENDS

A glass of Evolution Sports Nutrition's ISO Whey Protein (₹ 3,398 per kg). When we work out we burn a lot of fat and energy, and as soon as we're done, the body goes into repair mode as reflex. This is the perfect time for a protein shake as the body needs to rebuild any damaged muscle.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Disciplines like yoga and tai chi work on the subtle body (mind, senses, breathing pattern) so while the full-body integration routine burns calories, the eastern influences work on a deeper level. "When I started working out, my core felt strong, and my level of concentration increased," says Qureshi. To keep your core engaged (the most basic rule of pilates), you need to focus on those muscles all the time and do this while breathing right; this on-the-mat multitasking extends to life off the mat, too. "I've learned to listen to my body," says Qureshi. "I'm more aware of my posture – I don't slouch when I sit and maintain posture when I walk or run."

Achieving a heightened sense of body awareness is an imperative part of Karle's training. The little details, like equal body weight distribution when you stand, or keeping your knees over your ankles, are drilled into her clients' minds till they become an automatic reflex. "You have to learn to listen to your body to understand when and how long it needs to work out and when it needs to rest. When it needs to eat and what kind of food. I make sure Huma or anyone I work with develops the skill to read the signs their body sends them," says Karle, and this philosophy is the reason Qureshi feels their equation works: "Radhika helped me understand my body and I think this is needed for pilates or any exercise to be really effective because having the tools to lose weight isn't enough, you have to know how to work them to suit your body."

Find Radhika Karle at *Balancedbody.in*

MANASI SAWANT

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O&M 2750

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PHILIPS

Face the Day

Don't let the gloomy weather dampen your style. Stock up on these essentials to look fabulous all day



L'Oréal Paris White Perfect Laser Day Cream, ₹ 1,049



L'Oréal Paris Color Riche Les Ombres Eyeshadow Quad in Precious Purple, ₹ 850

STICK WITH SMOKEY EYES

You can bet on dark smokey eyes to amp up the glamour. Take a cue from Sonam Kapoor and wear a hint of colour with dramatic eyeliner

L'Oréal Paris Butterfly Waterproof Mascara, ₹ 850



L'Oréal Paris Superliner Gel Intenza Eyeliner in Profound Black, ₹ 875

GET THE LOOK

- Apply **White Perfect Laser Day Cream** to hydrate your skin.
- For your eyes, pick **Color Riche Les Ombres Eyeshadow Quad in Precious Purple** and sweep the purple shade over your entire lid.
- Then rim the eyes with **Superliner Gel Intenza Eyeliner in Profound Black**, winging it out at the corners.
- Brush on a few coats of **Butterfly Mascara**.
- Finish with a glossy lip in a hue closest to your natural lip colour.

"If you love eyeliners, try a smudge-proof gel liner on your upper lid. Don't forget to wear a waterproof mascara; it can do wonders for your eyes."

- NAMRATA SONI, L'ORÉAL PARIS MAKE-UP EXPERT



L'Oréal Paris Color Riche Pure Reds in Aishwarya Pure Brick, ₹ 995

PICK POP LIP COLOURS

A bright lip colour is the easiest way to update your look. Case in point: Aishwarya Rai



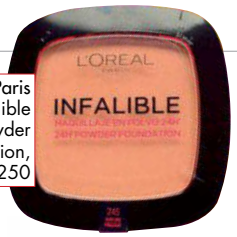
L'Oréal Paris Revitalift Laser Day Cream, ₹ 1,350

GET THE LOOK:

- Prep your skin with **Revitalift Laser Day Cream** and **Infallible Powder Foundation.**
- For an intense burgundy, apply **Color Riche Lipstick in Pure Brick**.
- Wear your bold lip colour with neutral eyes, and finish with mascara.

"My favourite kind of make-up is dewy skin and beautiful matte lip colours to brighten up a dull day."

- NAMRATA SONI, L'ORÉAL PARIS MAKE-UP EXPERT



L'Oréal Paris Infallible Reno Powder Foundation, ₹ 1,250





L'Oréal Paris UV Perfect Aqua Essence Face Mist SPF 50, ₹ 799

MASTER THE MONOTONE LOOK

Try smart make-up cheats to get Katrina Kaif's lit-from-within glow



L'Oréal Paris Lucent Magique Blush in 04 Sunset Glow, ₹ 899

GET THE LOOK:

- Start with **Infallible Powder Foundation** for a velvety complexion.
- Apply **Lucent Magique Blush** on your cheeks.
- Finish with **Color Riche L'Extraordinaire Shine Lipstick in Rose Melody** and **Color Riche Le Vernis in Boudoir Rose** on your nails.
- Protect your skin with **UV Perfect Aqua Essence Face Mist**.



L'Oréal Paris Color Riche Le Vernis in 204 Boudoir Rose, ₹ 250



L'Oréal Paris Color Riche L'Extraordinaire Shine Lipstick in 101 Rose Melody, ₹ 950

"For dewy skin during monsoons mix a few drops of face serum with foundation and apply it over your face."

- NAMRATA SONI, L'ORÉAL PARIS MAKE-UP EXPERT

L'ORÉAL
MAKEUP DESIGNER/PARIS



DARK MAGIC

*The ethereal **Eva Green** reveals the woman behind the Hollywood femme fatale. **Vatsala Chhibber** listens in*

There's a dreamlike quality about Eva Green. Her stunning dark looks and impenetrable smoky eyes appear almost unreal, belonging in a whimsical fairy tale, or a Tim Burton set. Her on-screen characters only elevate the intrigue, from James Bond's wayward lover in *Casino Royale* (2006) to a creepy clairvoyant on TV's favourite horror-drama, *Penny Dreadful*. In Green's make-believe world she's always confident, alluring and not without an evil streak. "But I wouldn't call myself self-confident in real life," she admits. "It's always been a fantasy for me to play powerful women — with some cracks in their personality — because I am not like that." And though she's found firm footing as Hollywood's go-to femme fatale, she's not entirely thrilled about it. "I don't like being put in a box," she says. "I'm many things." Here, she gives us a glimpse of some of those things, as well as her inner demons, her beauty rituals and the big, bad Hollywood beast.





ON HER RED-CARPET RITUAL

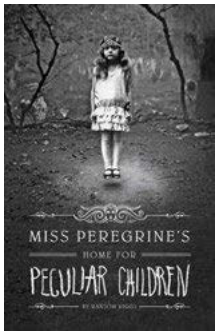
"The last thing I do before stepping onto the red carpet is put on some perfume. I've been very faithful to this brand called Santa Maria Novella. They have a fragrance called Melograno that's very simple, and very me."





ON INHABITING TIM BURTON'S UNIVERSE

"He's like a child; happy and easygoing with a passion that is contagious. In *Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children* [out next year], my character is like a dark Mary Poppins. It's a beautiful story set in the '40s and all the other roles are played by children — this was my first time working with children, and that was a bit of a challenge. The movie is slightly bonkers, but in a poetic way."



ON BEING THE NEW SPOKESPERSON FOR L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL:

"My hair is thin, fragile and tortured every day. My hairdresser always uses L'Oréal Professionnel hair products. I tried their deep moisturising Pro Fiber treatment, which is magical, and their new Wet Domination by Tecni.ART styling range. I also love oils, both for the body and the hair. I use L'Oréal's Mythic Oil twice a month — leaving it on overnight and shampooing the next morning."



BACK STORY

Three (new) reasons to love Eva Green



She owns a bull's head
A prized possession from her taxidermy collection — sourced from speciality store Deyrolle in Paris.



She looks nothing like she used to
She was a natural blonde until age 14, when she dyed her hair blue (later black) and decided it was better-suited to her pale complexion.



She has royal connections
Green's twin sister (not evil, we're told), Joy, keeps well away from the limelight, rearing horses in Normandy with her husband, an Italian count.

ON SURVIVING HOLLYWOOD

"It's a tough business. As an actor you have to keep your vulnerability for your roles, and at the same time, you have to build an armour around yourself because there are so many... I have to find a polite word... arseholes. You have to have faith in yourself and remain strong. And, if you find that you've lost your passion one day, I think you should move on to something else."

ON HER FITNESS ROUTINE:

"I love running. The best part is that you can run everywhere, so I can do it even when I'm travelling. It also keeps me grounded and helps me let out all my demons."

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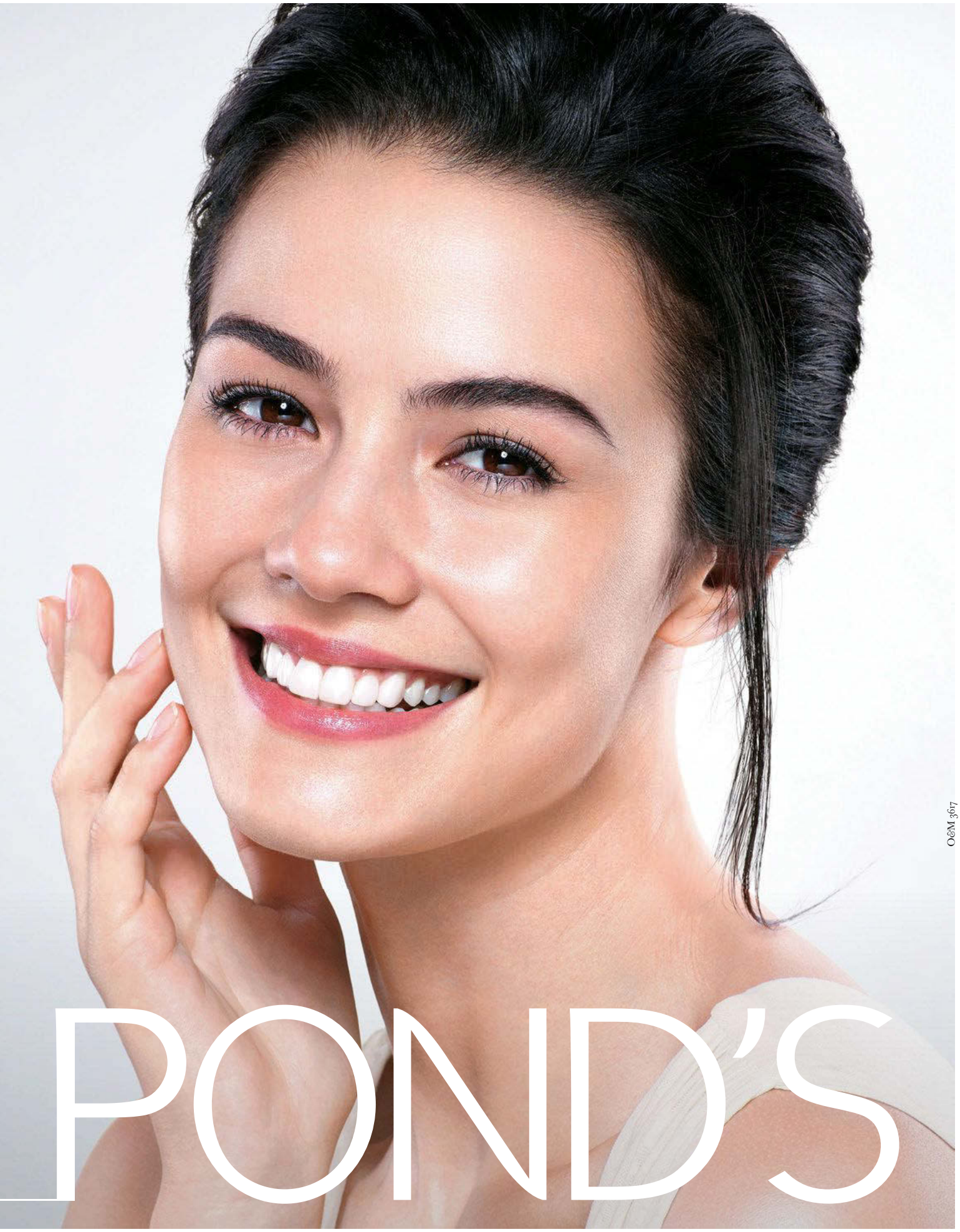
INSIDE:
Inspired by professional beauty clinics, with 6 powerful bio-actives, it helps replace ageing cells with new cells.

OUTSIDE:
Smoothens out lines and wrinkles from the 1st application. Skin glows with youth.



*With regular use.

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O&M 3617

ON THE SHELF
CHANEL MISIA

Golden girl

Evoke the pretty, powdered rebellion of ***Coco Chanel*** and the women she adored



The classic, complicated and irresistible perfume, new from Chanel's Les Exclusifs line, is an ode to Polish pianist Misia Sert, one of 20th-century Paris' great art patrons and a close confidante of Coco Chanel. Sugary notes of may rose and violet mimic the sweet-smelling powder boxes of well-coiffed grannies, cut wickedly with spicy sandalwood and tonka bean. Soak in the sweet unpredictability.

Chanel Misia, price on request

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING BY: RESHMA RAJIWDEKAR; INPUTS FROM MAMTA MODI

No. **1** selling
Scar and Stretch Marks
product in
17 countries*



"After endless procrastination, I finally committed to doing something constructive about the extra 10 kgs I'd being carrying around with me since my teenage years. I started eating healthily, began exercising and before long, I started seeing results. I felt incredibly motivated until I noticed stretch marks on my hips and stomach. Luckily a close friend recommended Bio-Oil (she had used it throughout her pregnancy for stretch marks). I have now reached my goal weight and the results have been unbelievable! Thank you Bio-Oil for saving my day!" Vanessa

Bio-Oil® is a specialist skincare product formulated to help improve the appearance of scars, stretch marks and uneven skin tone. Its unique formulation, which contains the breakthrough ingredient PurCellin Oil™, is also highly effective for ageing and dehydrated skin. For comprehensive product information and results of clinical trials, please visit **www.bio-oil.com**. Bio-Oil is available in select cities and outlets at an MRP of ₹450 for 60 ml. Individual results may vary.

*As per independent studies in respective territories. Based on customer perception.

SNOOZE FEST

If life is a university, we're all flunking sleep. But science can improve our score, says ***Deepa Menon****. We can't let the cats win this one too*

Unlike most modern-day luxuries — space, time, clean air — you can certainly throw money at the deficiency, but you can't buy sleep. A good night's rest requires currency of the abstract kind: hard labour, a calm mind, a clean conscience. No outside agency can source these things for you. But science can try, like an anxious new mother, to rock you to sleep using every wile in the book. It can adjust the temperature in your bed, block all noise, dim the lights and then watch you slumber. It can't walk you to the land of nod, but it can point you in the general direction.

We all know what happens when you don't visit often enough. Among other things, sleep deprivation can cause obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, anxiety and road accidents. On a much more superficial but still devastating level, it can also wreck your skin. A study by a British mattress company photographed 30 women, including model Jodie Kidd, after eight hours' sleep, and then again after five consecutive nights of just six hours. The difference is stark: puffy eyes, more fine lines and wrinkles, an increase in brown spots and dark circles. Imagine what it can do to us non-models.

Actually, you don't have to imagine it. Almost everyone around you has woken up before they were ready to this morning. The fact that alarm clocks run our lives is proof that we're doing this wrong. And you can blame only so much of it on the notorious midnight Twitter time-suck. Twenty-first century homo sapiens have racked up three strikes against a restful night: we're fighting to stay awake longer and messing up our body's rhythm; we're focused on quantity (the mythical eight hours) rather than quality; and we stress too much about all the sleep we're not getting.

THE UPSIDE OF DOWNTIME

Sleeplessness can do terrible things, but no one gives us any credit when we do get it right. So give yourself a round of applause for every night of sleep you managed. It may have looked to the world like you're a drooling slacker, but actually you were busy repairing cells, parsing and organising memories, regulating your appetite, recharging your brain, building immunity and, as Shakespeare put it, knitting up the ravelled sleeve of care. Actually, the question is, what do you do the rest of the day?

SLEEPING IS COOL

We spend a third of our lives unconscious, but scientists are still learning new things about this crucial biological process. Most research in this area is funded by the military, which is constantly seeking ways to keep soldiers performing at optimal levels in high-stress conditions. Thanks to them, we know that you can bank sleep. American researchers have found that the effects of sleep deprivation can be blunted if you got more than your usual quota for a few days leading up to the event. This is the same principle as 'saving up' calories before a big wedding so you can disgrace your family at the tawa mithai counter.

Another thing we now know for sure is that your sleep requirement is not negotiable. There's a glamour attached to staying up late. Margaret Thatcher is reported to have said, "Sleep is for wimps." Your favourite rockstar has probably uttered some variation of "I'll sleep when I'm dead." Don't listen to them — you are not the Iron Lady. It's true: some people just need less sleep. But that's decided by genetics, not coolth. These 'short sleepers' are an extremely rare breed, probably just one to three per cent of the population. Most people who claim to need little sleep are just chronically deprived (just ask them what time they wake up on Sunday; short sleepers never need to 'catch up'). You can't use Red Bull and cigarettes to replicate the lifestyle of someone who can thrive, not just limp by, on less than six hours' sleep. Yes, life is unfair, off to bed with you.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS HARD

The inability to sleep, like hairfall, is one of those things it's no point telling you not to stress about. But there might be a way to reframe your anxiety.

You don't sleep straight through the night: We slept differently when our bodies followed the movement of the sun, before the proliferation of the light bulb. Everyone would go to bed after dusk and wake up in the middle of night for a couple of hours, before going

LOSING SLEEP?

If you answer yes to most of these questions, you might have a problem.

- Do you feel tired on waking up?
- Do you also feel irritable?
- Do you wake up only when the alarm goes off?
- Do you feel extremely tired by the end of day?
- Do you tend to doze off in meetings?
- Have people commented on how tired you look?

Provided by Dr Manvir Bhatia, director of sleep medicine and senior neuro consultant at Saket City Hospital, Delhi.

ELLE LOVES
Waking up tired? Find the right pillow for your sleeping style at ELLE.in/pillowtalk



Some people just need less sleep. But that's decided by genetics, not coolth. These 'short sleepers' are a very rare breed

to sleep again. During these midnight hours, they would socialise, pray or read. This window of wakefulness can be very productive for creative work; prolactin levels rise and put you in a blissful, calm state. According to A Roger Ekirch, historian and author of *At Day's Close: Night In Times Past* (WW Norton & Company), this is also when our forebears got frisky, being too tired for sex when they first hit the bed. So the next time you find yourself awake at 2am and staring at the ceiling, think of how else you could use this time.

You have trouble falling asleep: Get out of bed and do anything — except stare at a backlit screen — till you're very sleepy again. A study in the *Archives Of Internal Medicine*, an American journal, found that reducing the time you spend in bed can improve your quality of sleep.

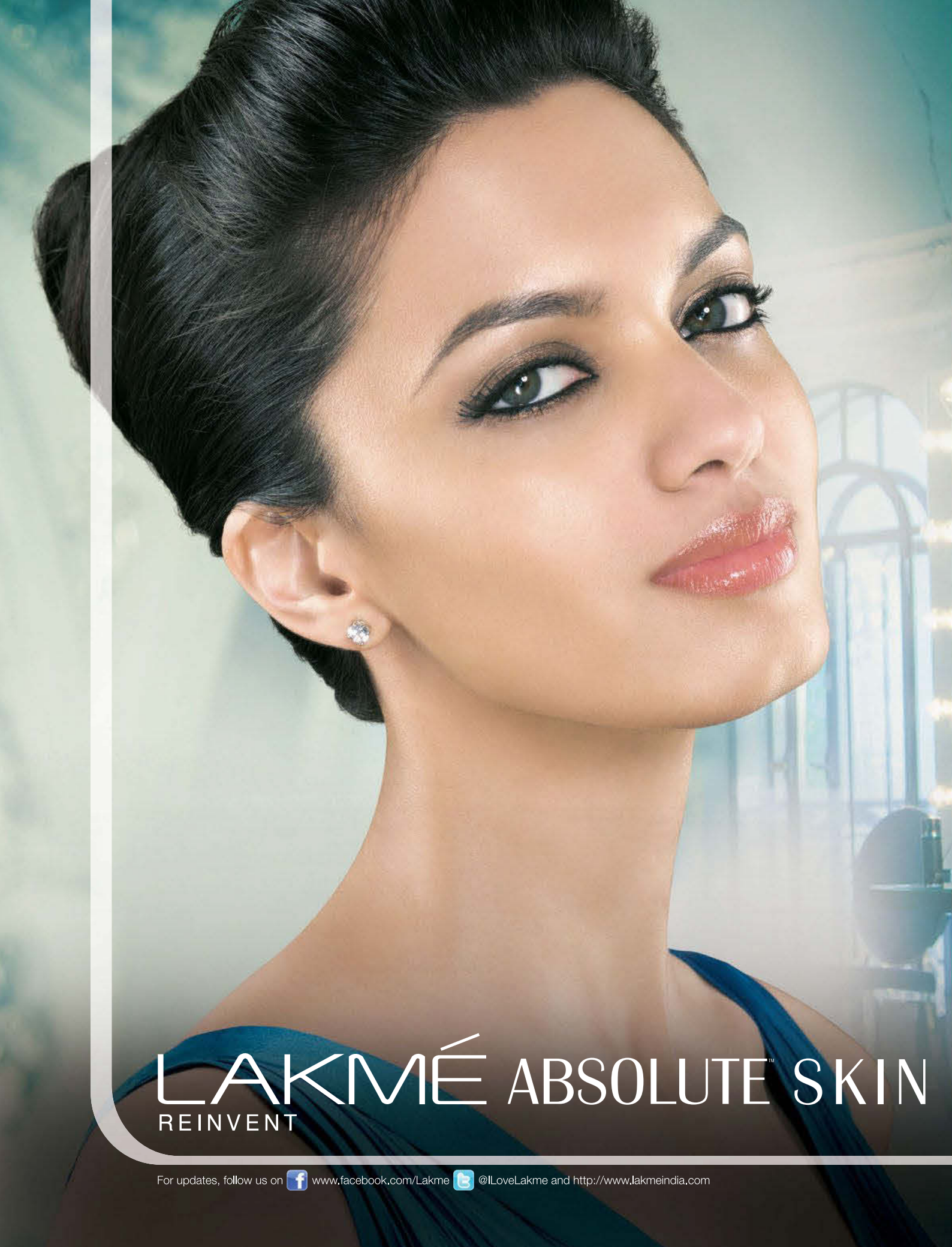
Your tracker says you're sleeping poorly: Most sleep-trackers rely on your movements to gauge how well you're doing. But some people tend to move more in bed than others. Sleep stages — which determine how deeply you are resting — can only be monitored through brain activity, not by how often you turn over.

You're worried you'll lose your edge: "While by conventional definitions of success, I was successful, by any sane definition of success, if you wake up in a pool of blood, and nobody has shot you, you are not successful." In 2007, after Arianna Huffington collapsed from exhaustion and broke her cheekbone on the way down, she decided she needed a new way to define success. She's now "pretty religious" about getting her eight hours. Her company, *Huffington Post*, a Pulitzer-winning news aggregator, recently rumoured to be valued upwards of $1 billion, seems to be coping nicely.

MATT JONES

SLEEP SCIENCE

- **Luna** is a scarily smart soft furnishing that observes your sleep pattern and brings your bed to just the right temperature before you climb in. This bed cover can communicate with your phone, fitness tracker and even your coffee machine to ensure you get enough sleep and wake up to a fresh brew. Available for pre-order (₹ 11,400). *Lunasleep.com*
- Turn your bedroom into a sleep clinic with **Sense**, a system that consists of a space-y looking orb, a clip-on for your pillow and an app. It measures air quality, humidity, temperature, sound and light to help max your room's relaxation quotient.
- Most sleeping pills work by increasing the availability of the tranquilising neurotransmitter GABA. Only, this messes with the body's ability to put itself to sleep, so you soon get hooked to the stuff. Trials are on to perfect a pill that simply blocks **orexine,** the chemical that is keeping you awake. It could have fewer side-effects and might even help in de-addiction.
- Noise-cancelling headphones don't work by just blocking noise, but by actively creating inverse sound waves to 'cancel' the ones from outside. If you'll give anything to sleep on a flight, choose from the well-reviewed **Bose QuietComfort** line (₹ 15,900 onwards).
- "One small lifestyle change can improve your quality of sleep: cut down screen time. The blue light emitted by LED displays — of your phone, TV, tablet — can reduce levels of melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep cycles," says Dr Preeti Devnani, clinical director of Sleep Disorders Clinic, Mumbai. To find out what's keeping you up, visit a **sleep clinic**. Here, doctors observe how you sleep, rule out medical conditions and offer therapy, including breathing aids and counselling.


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GLOSS

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ON THE SHELF
WATERPROOF MAKE-UP

Dry spell

Don't let the *monsoon* rain on your make-up routine

- When powder gets wet it tends to streak, so invest in cream or gel eyeshadow and blush, which blend easily and require almost no touch-ups.
- To safeguard your skin against humidity, swap heavy foundations for water-based, oil-free formulas that melt into the skin instantly.
- If your waterproof mascara smudges after getting wet, it's probably because you're rubbing your eyes. Try dabbing them with a tissue instead.



1. **L'Oréal Paris** Infallible Lipstick in Forever Fuchsia, ₹ 999 2. **Benefit** Benetint Cheek and Lip Tint, price on request 3. **Maybelline New York** Colossal Volum' Express Mascara, ₹ 350 4. **Lakmé** Absolute Skin Cover SPF 25, ₹ 595 5. **Make Up For Ever** Aqua Cream Eyeshadow in No 5, ₹ 2,000

ELLE PICKS
How to stay stylish when it's wet wet wet? Find the best rain-proof fashion at ELLE.in/rainydays

PHOTOGRAPH: MANASI SAWANT; STYLING BY: RESHMA RAJIWDEKAR; INPUTS FROM MAMTA MODY



GLOWING COMPLEXION

VLCC launches the DNA Skin test to first identify skin problems before providing bespoke solutions for smooth, glowing skin

NEW FROM VLCC

Your DNA controls 70% of the look, feel and health of your skin (the remaining 30% depends on environmental factors) so for skincare to be truly effective, it has to match your DNA. Most of us apply products to suit our skin type (dry, oily, etc) but skincare isn't just about topical application. **VLCC's new revolutionary DNA SKIN** has been launched in India and offers individualised skincare as **your DNA sample is tested and a scientific analysis is drawn. VLCC experts then suggest individualised solutions, and products and services are offered based on your DNA and certain genes.** It identifies what could cause loss of collagen before signs appear and provides a comprehensive view of the skin through understanding six parameters which determine collagen synthesis and breakdown as well as other factors that determine healthy skin.

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

With its foray into the skin care industry, VLCC has created a **holistic approach to skin care**. While **the DNA Skin test will tell you what needs fixing, VLCC's AgeDefy solutions including the Skin MTX Products and Stem Cellogist™ line** (packed with ingredients that have been scientifically proven to fight the signs of ageing and other skin problems) will give you the **tools to fix the problems**.

RESULTS

Every human being has a unique body composition and therefore, **skin treatments need to be specific to your needs. As the DNA Skin test is performed using individual DNA, the experts at VLCC can prescribe treatments and products that are suited to the individual** and it is also more effective because you know what the problem is and so, it's easy to solve.

Watch this space for more news on VLCC's offerings

DNA SKIN

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VLCC
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FOR MEN AND WOMEN



SHORT CUTS

Not ready for the commitment — and pain — of invasive surgery? These gentler options might be just the middle ground you're looking for, says ***Mihika Pai***

ELLE PICKS
Which dermat is right for you? We track down India's most popular specialists at ELLE.in/dermats

DAVID BURTON

From tightening a sagging jowl to tackling stubborn fat deposits, cosmetic sciences have on offer an array of highly effective treatments that require almost zero downtime and don't carry with them the weight of the complications that come with full-blown plastic surgery. Some give near-permanent solutions, others need to be repeated at regular intervals, while yet others even allow you the freedom of a trial run.

INSTABREAST

WHAT: New York-based plastic surgeon Dr Norman Rowe offers what he calls the 'Instabreast'. The procedure is surprisingly simple and takes as much committment as a test drive; if you don't enjoy it, you're not stuck with it. It adds a little more volume and fullness temporarily by injecting a saline solution into the breast. The body naturally absorbs the solution in 24 hours, and your breasts return to their original size.

HOW: The saline is injected into a designated site at the edge of the nipple area after anesthetising it. The needle is manoeuvred in at different angles until the desired shape and fullness is achieved.

OUCH FACTOR: The entire process takes about an hour and the procedure itself under 20 minutes. There are no known side-effects and physical discomfort during and after the procedure is minimal.

IV COCKTAIL FACIAL

WHAT: Science may have come close to discovering the fountain of youth: a powerful antioxidant called glutathione, naturally produced in the liver and lungs. Ageing and lifestyle factors like stress, exposure to pollution, trauma, infection and a poor diet, slow down its production. And we know what the absence of antioxidants can mean to the body's fight against free radicals. This treatment aims to replenish the body's supply of glutathione to ensure an overall healthier you. One of its side-effects is fairer, lighter, more even-toned skin.

Science may have come close to discovering the fountain of youth: a powerful antioxidant called gluthathione, produced in the liver and lungs

HOW: Glutathione is injected into the body intravenously. Some doctors prefer to mix in vitamin B, vitamin C, calcium and magnesium, while others have paired this with a facial that lets you relax during the drip, so you leave the clinic looking refreshed and rested. Wellness clinics in the west offer custom-blended drips depending on your complaint. "Injecting glutathione is not without risk, though," warns New Delhi-based dermatologist Dr Kiran Lohia. "It can cause kidney failure, skin rashes and allergies. So while glutathione may possibly be effective, the side-effect profile cannot be ignored. If you really want to try it, go to a senior doctor, and make sure your blood levels are being monitored while on it."

OUCH FACTOR: If you've ever experienced what an IV drip feels like, then you'll know exactly what to expect. The entire procedure takes no more than 30 minutes.

COOLSCULPT

WHAT: The USFDA-approved CoolSculpt could possibly be the answer to the age-old muffin-top predicament. "It works on the principle of 'cryolipolysis' or fat-freezing, and targets the areas that no amount of exercise or diet seems to affect. Technically speaking, it's for people who are already at pretty decent fitness levels, eat healthy and work out. It isn't an alternative to liposuction," explains cosmetic physician Dr Jamuna Pai.

HOW: The treatment works by cooling fat cells to such a low temperature that they die. These dead cells are then flushed out of the body over the next couple of months through the body's lymphatic drainage system. Results are visible within two months after treatment.

OUCH FACTOR: The suctioning action of the machine can cause a little discomfort. Expect a numb/sore feeling for at least four to five days after the treatment.

HEEL FILLERS

WHAT: As a more long-lasting fix to pesky heel inserts that never seem to stay in place, doctors are now using the same fillers they use to plump lips and cheekbones, as a solution to aching, high-heel feet. Dermatologist Dr Rekha Sheth explains, "Dermal fillers are made of hyaluronic acid molecules, found all over the human body. So they pose no threat to practically any area that they're injected into."

HOW: The fat pad in the ball of your feet acts as a shock absorber, and when you wear high heels the fat pad is disturbed, causing discomfort to the bone. Dermal fillers protect the bony surfaces from friction and discomfort. However, as dermatologist Dr Abhijit Desai warns, you need to ensure your aches are not an orthopaedic issue before opting for fillers.

OUCH FACTOR: Your doctor will first apply a topical anesthetic to the area before injecting the filler. Secondly, new-generation fillers come with an inbuilt numbing agent that make the injecting process a lot easier. Like with any filler injection, results can last upto a year and the procedure is completely reversible.

VAMPIRE FACIAL

WHAT: Despite its scary name (clinically, it's called Platelet-rich Plasma Therapy), this is actually one of the most natural forms of rejuvenating treatments available. It stimulates collagen and stem-cell growth in the skin, making it look younger and brighter. Dr Lohia is of the opinion that since it's your own blood being used, chances of side-effects are non-existent.

HOW: The doctor will draw your blood and centrifuge it. Using only the plasma-rich part, which can be enriched with FDA-approved stem-cell growth agents, they will inject it back into the area with tiny pricks. The treatment can be done anywhere, including under the eyes, on the décolletage, on the hands and even on the scalp to stimulate hair growth.

OUCH FACTOR: The process isn't painless. So a lot of doctors use a topical numbing agent before injecting the area. "It's a whole lot of tiny pricks all across the area we're treating, so a little discomfort can be expected," explains Dr Pai.



*Based on lab test.
^Based on lab test on Dove Oxygen Moisture shampoo & conditioner vs. uncleaned hair.
#Based on lab test on new Dove Oxygen Moisture system vs non-conditioning shampoo.

Breathe life into dry, dull hair.

New Dove Oxygen Moisture

Wish your dry hair could be smooth as well as bouncy? And feel that while moisturising shampoos take care of the dryness, they are unable to give your hair bounce and thicker look? Introducing New Dove Oxygen Moisture with oxygen fused ingredients that instantly disperse on hair and nourish it*. For hair that's smooth, bouncy and looks 95% thicker^. So now with Dove, get smooth and nourished hair that's full of life.



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The people at Shreyas are determined to help you connect with nature — you can practise yoga in their lush gardens, lounge in a tree house and meditate under the shade of coconut trees. And to completely de-stress, try their Balinese massage, which relaxes tense muscles and makes you feel light enough to levitate.

₹ 17,920 *plus taxes per night for a garden tent; extra for spa services*

Shreyasretreat.com

DELHI

DUSIT DEVARANA

Less than an hour's drive away from the city, the winner of GeoSpa AsiaSpa India's best new spa award is popular for its outdoor treatment areas. Pick a spot near a serene pool of water for their signature Heavenly Nantha Garden Experience, which includes a body scrub, bath and relaxing massage, all with the essence of tropical flowers and aromatic blends of ylang-ylang and jasmine.

₹ 9,700 *plus taxes for the 2.5 hours long Nantha Garden Experience*

Devarana.in

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The castle-like hotel is surrounded by the Himalayas, and their spa treatments make the most of the spectacular view. Try their Indigenous Rituals, which combine the traditional shirodhara oil bath with a therapeutic massage to activate and balance your energy centres. The treatment finishes in an aromatic bath with a view of cedar trees and snow-capped peaks. Bliss.

₹ 19,500 *plus taxes per night for a deluxe room; extra for spa services*

Oberoihotels.com

MUMBAI

THE SPA AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

When you don't have time for a destination spa, this city spa will offer solid value to the few hours you cull out. Book yourself (and your partner) into their Natrajasana or Vajrasana private spa suites and ask for the Spa Romance for Couples: an hour-long massage followed by a 30-minute rose petal bath. Got a few more minutes? Head to their Crystal steam room or relax in their indoor Jacuzzi.

₹ 12,000 *plus taxes for the Spa Romance for Couples*

Fourseasons.com

GOA

SERENO SPA AT THE PARK HYATT

Endured too many gimmicky local massages and hours of Enya on loop? Then this modern hotel spa is your best bet in Goa. Their fuss-free treatments are a fusion of ayurveda and aromatherapy, and if you want to combine a massage with a beauty treatment, try the Body Strategist



OIL MIGHTY

Try these concoctions for a spa-like massage at home



Forest Essentials Soundarya Beauty Body Oil, ₹ 2,295



Ananda Invigorating Body Oil (Orange, Eucalyptus, Peppermint), ₹ 1,105



Kiehl's Superbly Restorative Argan Dry Oil, ₹ 2,200



L'Occitane Aromachologie Relaxing Body Oil, ₹ 1,990

The Body Shop Polynesia Monoi Miracle Oil ₹ 1,295



Remodeller, which firms and tones skin while reducing cellulite.

₹ 12,882 *plus taxes per night for Sereno Sparsh room; extra for spa services*

Goa.park.hyatt.com

KOVALAM

SOMATHEERAM AYURVEDA RESORT

There's no dearth of Ayurveda-themed treatments, but you'll find ancient and unadulterated Ayurveda on a private beach at Chowara. Just make sure you have enough time to enjoy it because their body-balancing treatments, like Pizhichil (where two or four therapists follow specific rhythms while massaging a blend of herbal oils on your body) can last for 14 to 21 days.

₹ 65,520 *for the Pizhichil course plus extra for accomodation*

Somatheeram.in

AGRA

KAYA KALP SPA, ITC MUGHAL,

With orante fountains in courtyards and open channels of running water, the Mughal-inspired spa property claims to be one of the largest spas in the country. Go for the complete royal routine with their Mughal Hammam package, which includes a soak in a private Turkish bath and a deep-cleansing Persian-inspired body scrub.

₹ 12,000 plus taxes *per night for a single room; extra for spa services*

Itchotels.in

UDAIPUR

THE SPA BY ESPA, THE LEELA PALACE

Of course, this place is unspeakably beautiful — it's a palace located on a lake. And even though it's choked with tourists, you're sure to find a quiet spot at the spa that also lets you enjoy a maginificent view of Lake Pichola. Activate your chakras with the Hot Stone Therapy or just rent a private spa tent, and get pampered next to your very own private swimming pool.

₹ 18,800 *plus taxes for a standard room; extra for spa services*

Theleela.com

THE SERAI

SUJÀN SPA

It's not the largest spa on the list, and it only comprises four tents. But we are completely obsessed with its location in the middle of a desert camp. The expert therapists rely on locally-produced spa products that combine a blend of healing herbs from the Thar desert for treatments. And after a long camel ride on the dunes, there's nothing better than a reflexology massage to ease your sore back.

₹ 35,700 *plus taxes per night for the suite; extra for spa services*

— SOPHIA ANN FRENCH

PROMOTION

Spot-less Looks Decoded With Pond's BB+

Here leading beauty and lifestyle bloggers demonstrate how you can wear Ponds BB+ across looks.

Get spotless skin instantly with the Pond's BB+ cream that's suitable for any occasion, be it a work meeting or a date. You can wear the all in one cream with any look, which is why it ought to be your constant companion.



Ethnic Look

= Trushna Parekh

BLOG : BNBSTYLES'S BLOG

Wedding means a lot of bling, shimmer and bright colors. For my makeup base I applied Ponds BB+ cream as it gives me a perfect texture and blends with my skin. Just to add glamour to my look I applied eye liner, kajal, shimmery blush and bright lipstick.

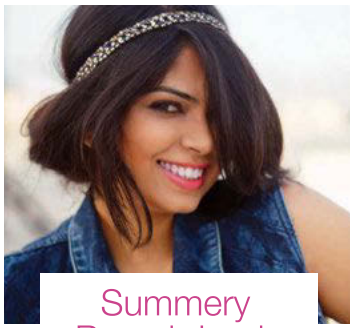


Office Chic Look

= Hina Attar

BLOG: MAKEUP BY HINA

To work, you have to look flawless to leave a good impression. The Ponds BB cream, is great for getting a spotless coverage. Dab on some blush and light colored lipstick, apply few coats of mascara and you should be good to go!



Summery Brunch Look

= Vipra Patil

BLOG: FOREVER MAGNIFICO

Heading to a summer day brunch, you have to look fresh, casual and yet something to remember!. Apply Ponds BB cream all over the face. Curl your lashes, apply mascara and smack coral hue gloss on the pout

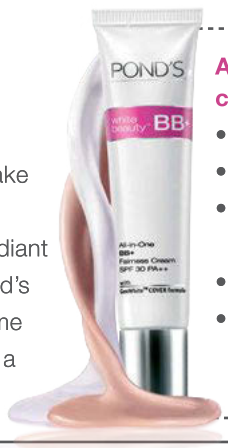


Dinner Date Look

= Stephanie Timmins

BLOG: FESITY FOX DIARIES

For a dinner date, you've to make sure you make heads turn and leave him thinking about the radiant beautiful you. I go with the Pond's BB cream as a base, apply some black eyeliner, some blush and a bold red lipstick.



All in one Pond's BB+ cream benefits:

- Instant spot coverage
- Instant natural glow
- Lightens spots from inside
- Evens skin tone
- SPF 30 PA++ protects from UVA, UVB and visible light

How to apply?

1. Cleanse your face with Pond's White Beauty face wash, squeeze a small amount of Pond's BB+ cream on your fingertips 2. Dot your forehead, cheeks and chin 3. Blend and spread outward toward the hairline and jaw line for an even coverage

Edelman/CPC/0018

POND'S

O&M 5084



OUTSIDE:
Covers spots and dark circles. Evens skin tone. Skin looks instantly Spot-Less. Picture perfect everyday.

INSIDE:
GenWhite works daily to lighten skin for fairness**.

Instant Spot-Less fairness, everyday.*

That's the Pond's promise.

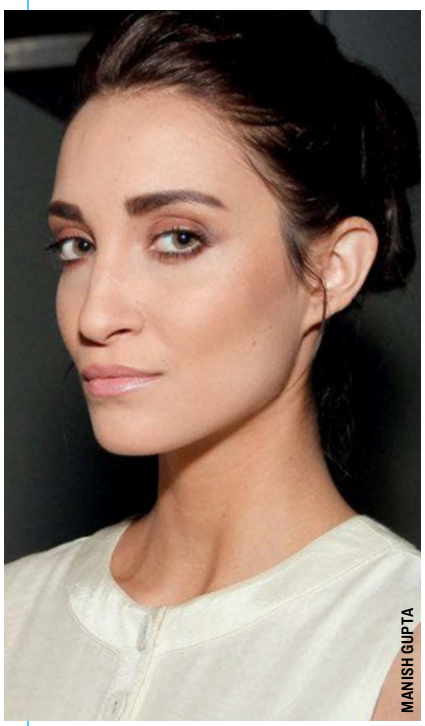
white beauty™ BB+ cream

* Instant effect with regular usage everyday.
** Results may vary depending on your skin condition.

A WHITENING BREAKTHROUGH BY THE POND'S INSTITUTE | PONDS.IN

Water wonder

It may look like tap water, but the new skin essence packs a nutritive punch



MANISH GUPTA

Adding another step to your skincare routine is tedious; we barely remember to wear sunscreen everyday. But the Koreans' love for essence and their to-die-for-skin is making us rethink our strategy (slothfulness). Applied after toner and before moisturiser, it hydrates skin on a cellular level — think quicker skin regeneration. Its light, watery texture provides a boost of moisture minus the grease, and makes your serum and moisturiser more effective. And even though it can't turn back the clock, essence gives you fresher looking skin instantly.



Lancôme Blanc Expert Essence in Lotion, ₹ 4,700

Innisfree Canola Honey Jelly Mist, ₹ 750

Clinique Even Better Essence Lotion, ₹ 2,950

Chanel Sublimage La Lotion Supreme, ₹ 10,400

Kiehl's Iris Extract Activating Treatment Essence, ₹ 3,500



NEW LAUNCH

A cocktail of apricot extract, yuzu seed extract, vitamin A and C makes Za's Perfect Solution Youth Whitening Serum, ₹ 1,299, ideal to wipe out early signs of ageing and achieve flawless skin. Wear it in the morning and evening to make the most of its skin-clarifying properties.

BURGUNDY BLUSH

In love with Katrina Kaif's fierce tresses? Find a crimson that's perfect for you





Matrix's Crimson Crush look combines luscious ruby (Wonder. Red 5RR, ₹ 249) and violet (Wonder.Red 4RV, ₹ 249) to create a visual separation that suits lighter skin tones.

Blue- and purple-based reds flatter medium skin tones. Turn to **Schwarzkopf Professional** Igora Royal Hair Colour in 6-99, ₹ 330 for a rich, indulgent shade of red.





The **L'Oréal Professionnel** Inoa Carmilane 4.62, ₹ 450 is a bright hue of burgundy best suited for darker skin tones. Added bonus? The formula defies colour fading.



Want Katrina's shade? Try **L'Oréal Paris** Excellence Crème in 316, ₹ 559

PHOTOGRAPHS: L'ORÉAL PARIS INDIA (KATRINA KAIF), GULSHAN SACHDEVA (RUNWAY); INPUTS FROM ARSHIE CHEVALWALA


Nature's
ESSENCE
Aromatherapy Beauty Solutions
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Go For Gold
Nature's Essence
Gold Facial Kit
Nature's Essence
Gold Kit
Nature's Gold
CLEANSING SCRUB
Golden Dust, Orange Oil
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LIGHTING.PHILIPS.CO.IN

Our handy guide to a luxe lifestyle comes straight from those who live it. Plus, a round up of the country's finest artisanal chocolates to help you cheat better on your diet



LISA RAY
ACTOR



TO ESCAPE THE CROWDS,I HEAD TO:

Rokeby Manor in Landour, which is actually an army cantonment above Mussoorie. It is a converted Victorian mansion with stone features and roaring fireplaces. *Rokebymanor.com*



THE MOST ROMANTIC TABLE FOR TWO:

The Oberoi Amarvilas in Agra. I dined there by candlelight with Jason [Dehni] before he was my husband. *Oberoihotels.com*

A SERVICE I RECOMMEND TO ALL MY FRIENDS:

Insight Vacations, a boutique travel company — why worry about luggage if you don't have to? *Insightvacations.com*

THE PERSONAL TRAINER WHO GETS ME IN SHAPE:

Samir Purohit for pilates (*Pilatesaltitude.com*) and Sam Gomes at Waterstones Club (*Waterstonesclub.com*).

THE BED LINEN FOR SWEET DREAMS:

Frette



ELLE LOVES

Frette's Glass Beads Ricamo collection, which dresses super-smooth cotton sateen in intricate embroidery. Frette.com

THE **GOOD** LIFE

Palatial hotel rooms, do-nothing bespoke services, executive chefs on speed dial — ten ladies-in-the-know open up their ***luxury black books***





THE CHEF ON MY SPEED DIAL:

Chef Kelvin Cheung from Ellipsis, Bombay. I love his dark chocolate brownies and chocolate chip cookies. *Ellipsisrestaurant.in*



FOR THE FINEST FINE JEWELLERY I GO TO:

Nirav Modi. I had bought a fun, leaf motif ring from there. I love his new range which is luxurious but also very wearable. *Niravmodi.com*



PERNIA QURESHI
ENTREPRENEUR, ACTOR

MY FAIL-SAFE PARTY PLANNER:

That would be my sister Sylvia [Moin]. She is an event planner and can handle anything from a small dinner to a large party. *Smproductions.co.in*

MY SWEET TOOTH NEEDS:

The banoffee pie at the Big Chill Café (*Tel: 011 4175 7588*) in Delhi and the dark chocolate tart at The Table in Bombay (*Thetable.in*).

ELLE PICKS
Looking for some R&R? Trust our pick of India's most luxurious hotel rooms on ELLE.in/fivestar



SHAANA LEVY-BAHL
ACTOR, PRODUCER



MY WEDDING A-TEAM:

Vishal Punjabi of The Wedding Filmer (*Tel: +91 98198 63229*), Sabyasachi [Mukherjee] (*Sabyasachi.com*) and Shirin Neterwala (*Designsnm.com*), who helped with my cards, menus and in-room gifts.

WITH MY DREAM HOME I WOULD ONLY TRUST:

My mother, Sheela Levy. She's a visual merchandiser, feng shui expert and interior designer. *Sheelalevy.com*

I FIND THE BEST GIFTS AT:

Bungalow 8 (*Bungaloweight.com*) for house-warming gifts and Simone (*Simone.com*) for scented candles.

MY WELLNESS CREW INCLUDES:

My craniosacral therapist Ashwini Mehta (*Tel: +91 98200 61542*), and I get Thai osteopathy massages from Samanta Duggal (*Samantaduggal.com*).



NEW DESIGNERS IN MY WARDROBE:

I am obsessed with Gianvito Rossi's (*Net-a-porter.com*); beautiful shoes. This year I also tried swimwear from Australian label Triangl (*Triangl.com*).







SABINA SINGH
ENTREPRENEUR

THE MOST EXQUISITE BATH PRODUCT:

Forest Essentials' mogra body wash. *Forestessentialsindia.com*



FOR PERFECT LIGHTING, I HEAD TO:

Piloo Bomanjee makes the best coloured Austrian-crystal chandeliers in Mumbai. *Email: Pbomanjee@yahoo.com*

FEAR-FREE HAIRCUTS ARE AT:

Jean-Claude Biguine at Kemps Corner in Mumbai. *Tel: 022 6650 1111*

A NUTRITIONIST I SWEAR BY:

Anjali Mukerjee. Works every single time! *Health-total.com*

ELLE LOVES

'Empire red' professional bowl mixer, ₹ 59,990, ***Kitchenaidindia.com***



A BUDDING MASTER CHEF NEEDS:

Anything by KitchenAid.

RACHEL GOENKA
RESTAURATEUR



FOR THE PRETTIEST BLOOMS:

June8 in Bandra [Mumbai] is the best. *June8events.com*

AN ORGANIC INGREDIENT I LOAD MY CART WITH:

Lychee honey and raw honey from Natural Mantra *Naturalmantra.com*

THE MASSAGE TO MAKE EVERYTHING BETTER IS AT:

Ananda in the Himalayas. *Anandaspa.com*

THE BEST COCKTAIL IN THE WORLD IS:

The Landau martini at the Langham in London. It's a pear martini with hints of green apple and vanilla. *Langhamhotels.com*

NEVILLE SUKHIA (SABINA SINGH)



CECILIA MORELLI PARIKH
ENTREPRENEUR

LABELS I'M OBSESSED WITH RIGHT NOW:

The Row and Dries van Noten (*Lemillindia.com*); I'm quite loyal. Everything they design is timeless, and I like pieces that stay with me for long.

FOR STATEMENT JEWELLERY I COUNT ON:

Vintage jewellery from De Vera (*Deveraobjects.com*) in NYC and special pieces from Gem Palace in Jaipur (*Gempalacejaipur.com*).

THE SKIN PRODUCT THAT MAKES ME GLOW DAY-TO-NIGHT:

Crème de la Mer. *Cremedelamer.com*

SHOES I'D KILL FOR:

Any pair by Tabitha Simmons.

ELLE LOVES



1.



2.



3.

Tabitha Simmons' suede kitten heels — a bright (and blissfully comfy) boost of colour.

1. 'Dolly' espadrilles, ₹ 33,340 2. 'Lily' slingback pumps, ₹ 42,130 3. 'Leticia' sandals, ₹ 45,020; all **Tabitha Simmons** at ***Net-a-porter.com***

MY FAVOURITE HOTEL ROOM IN THE WORLD:

Room number seven at the Aman Canal Grande Venice. It's spacious, in a palace right on the canal, in the most romantic city in the world. *Amanresorts.com*



LISA HAYDON
ACTOR

MY FINE DINNERWARE IS FROM:

I like to curate dinner sets from different places. I like white ceramic plates for food, clay bowls for soup and good ol' silver Kishco (*Kischo.in*) cutlery never goes out of fashion.

ELLE LOVES



This rustic, handcrafted tea set from Mumbai-based ceramics studio Curators of Clay. Curatorsofclay.com

MY CHEESE ADDICTION LEADS ME TO:

Nature's Basket (*Naturesbasket.co.in*). It has great Manchego, smoked cheddar, Stilton and Roquefort blue cheese. If travelling, I head to Caviar House & Prunier (*Caviarhouse-prunier.com*) at any European airport and buy enough of everything to last a month. It always gets over in a week.

MY WINNING MAKE-UP TEAM:

Bobbi Brown's honey shade for under-eyes only, Clinique's black mascara, Chanel's 'Boy' lipstick, and M.A.C and Chanel eyeshadows.



THE BEST BUSINESS CLASS SEAT IS ON:

Emirates. It's amazing; the latest planes give you your own iPad dock, private refrigerator and really good menus. *Emirates.com*

FARROKH CHOTHIA (LISA HAYDON)

MY GO-TO SHOP FOR VINTAGE CLOTHING:

What Goes Around Comes Around, in New York. *Whatgoesaroundnyc.com*



NADINE DHODY
DESIGNER

THE WORLD'S BEST POOL:

Is at the One&Only resort in Los Cabos, Mexico — from the infinity pool we could see whales jumping in and out of the water. *Oneandonlyresorts.com*



THE MOST INSTAGRAMMABLE VIEW IS:

Out the ocean villa rooms at the Angsana Velavaru resort in the Maldives. Endless shades of blues, beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and nothing else. *Angsana.com*

THE PERFECT BITE:

French toast at La Petite Maison, Dubai. *Lpmdubai.ae*

PRIYA SACHDEV
ENTREPRENEUR

MY PERSONALISED ACCESSORIES COME FROM:

Edie Parker (*Edie-parker.com*) for personalised clutches; I have one with my daughter's name on it. I also have Goyard bags (*Goyard.com*) and card holders with my initials on them.

AN EXCLUSIVE SERVICE I'VE DISCOVERED:

Villa rentals around the world and time share yachts are available from this service called Luxury Retreats *Luxuryretreats.com*



A MEMBERS-ONLY CLUB I ADORE:

À Ta Maison, also called 'ATM', is a quaint members-only place in Sunder Nagar Market, New Delhi. *Atamaison.com*





MY TECH LOVES ARE:
The Apple Watch and my iPad Air.



THE MAKE-UP BRAND I'M LOYAL TO:

Giorgio Armani. I love their Luminous Silk foundation. It gives you the perfect glow, and is really light. A single bottle goes a long way.

A SUPER-INDULGENT MEAL WORTH THE MONEY:

The escargot and frog legs at Chez L'ami Louis (*Tel: +331 4887 7748*) in Paris were the tastiest I've ever had. Also, Sumosan (*Sumosan.com*) in London; my husband ordered pretty much everything on the menu.

ELLE LOVES



The traditional sashimi set at Sumosan, London — expect to bump into Nicole Kidman when you go.

NEED THIS DESIGNER IN MY WARDROBE, NOW:

Haider Ackermann. I normally buy only vintage and secondhand clothes, but I'm going to buy something of his. Anything. *Net-a-porter.com*

MY FAVOURITE ESCAPE:

The Datai Langkawi in Kuala Lumpur. *Thedatai.com*



SMITA LASRADO
MODEL

COMPILED BY SIMRAN BHALLA AND VATSALA CHHIBBER

MANPREET SINGH (PRIYA SACHDEV)

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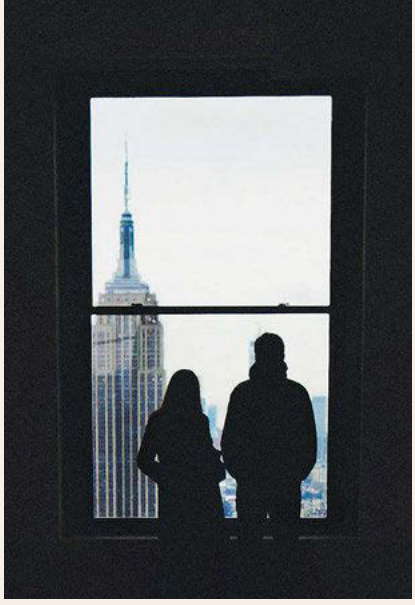
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THE FAR SIDE

Taking a year off from his life of moneyed success to live closer to the bone showed ***Karan Bajaj*** *how good it can really get*

By many measures, my life in New York City was a good life. I was a senior executive at a major consumer products company, I lived in a comfortable apartment facing Central Park, and I spent the weekends in museums, theatres and nightclubs. Except for the restlessness that simmered underneath, all the time.

My discontent erupted one night, after a friend's birthday celebrations at a typically pretentious Manhattan restaurant. As always, I had eaten too much, drunk too much, spent too much — and talked too little about things that truly mattered to me. I couldn't do it any more. My mother had passed away six months earlier and although I'd told myself that I was mature enough to deal with the grief, I began to realise that her death had made me fundamentally question the predictable rhythms of life — birth, marriage, kids, career, ageing and death. I'd been reading the Upanishads and Buddhist scriptures from a lifelong interest in Eastern mysticism, but in my everyday life, I knew I was living the exact opposite of its centuries-old philosophy of detachment.

My then-girlfriend, now-wife, Kerry, was struggling with the same dilemma, so that evening, outside the restaurant, we decided we would leave everything we knew behind for a year, and strike out on a creative and spiritual sabbatical in order to find the answers we were looking for. Within a few months of making the decision, we went from Europe to India by road. Along the way, we lived as Buddhist monks in a Scottish monastery, spent weeks in silent meditation in Italy, wrote our books in an artist retreat in Portugal, learned yoga at an ashram in India and hiked through the Himalayas. Everything we know about living well today, we learned on that journey. The 'meaning of life' that we sought so much, came to us in bits and bobs. Here are some:

PLAN TO BE SURPRISED

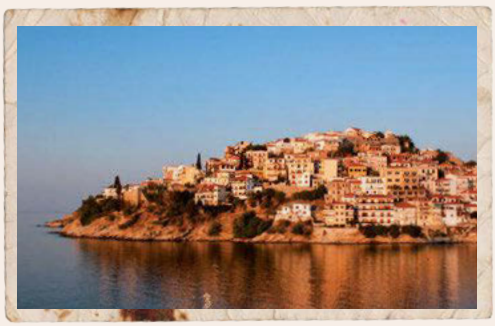
Both Kerry and I felt that our life in New York had become too privileged for our liking, so on our journey from Europe to India, we made a commitment to travel by the cheapest available mode of transport and stay exclusively in hostels. As a result, there were many uncomfortable experiences from sleeping outside a train station in Bulgaria to walking 50 kilometres when the buses went on strike in rural Italy and sleeping in a six-by-ten room with nine snoring men at an ashram in South India for a month. All painful and inconvenient then, but in retrospect, the ones we remember most fondly. The journey became a metaphor: We strive for comfort and predictability but it's the times we consciously disrupt stasis and push ourselves into the unknown that truly make for enduring memories.

COMRADES MAKE THE JOURNEY LESS LONELY

For years, I'd been feeling a rising sense of alienation from my friends and family back home. I couldn't relate to people's well-meaning discussions about favourite restaurants, their kids' schooling, cruise vacations and such. But within a few days of meeting fellow backpackers — a motley bunch, from a Spanish couple who were cycling from Portugal to India, to a bus driver from Alaska who was learning yoga in Madurai, to a Romanian Krishna-bhakt in Greece







— I felt more understood than I had by people I had known all my life. It sunk in then how much the company of like-minded people, and the strength of their convictions, help anchor your own.

PACKING LIGHT MAKES LEAPING EASIER

The things we own start owning us. Not just the material stuff like houses and cars; even noble desires like giving our kids the best education can become baggage that weighs us down to our unsatisfying environments. On the road, we literally packed light — a backpack each, with just one pair of clothes for each season. We left behind our smartphones, so that we wouldn't be pulled into the whirlpool of news, email or social media. A big change for me especially was letting go of the need to plan meticulously and set a concrete agenda for each day. We followed the road, and the right thing to do emerged spontaneously from within us. After finishing a 10-day Vipassana course in Italy, for example, we were brimming with book ideas, so instead of travelling more, we just took a cheap hotel room and started writing there for a few weeks. It was incredibly liberating: I'd never felt lighter and more creative and did my best writing in this period.

SETTLE FOR LESS

Both Kerry and I returned from the sabbatical 20 pounds lighter, with straighter spines and more core strength than before. Living in yoga ashrams and meditation retreats for months had exposed our bodies to a simple plant-based diet. We weren't constantly stooping to check our phones or do array formulas on Excel. And our bodies responded.

Back in Manhattan, we're surrounded by stimulation again, and despite our best efforts, we're sucked into more of it than we want. But what has shifted is our awareness of the cost of our consumption — and that makes us just a tad more deliberate about our choices. I make sure now that my phone stays outside the bedroom when I'm sleeping. I meditate before bed and first thing when I wake up. My diet is still predominantly plant-based and I drink much less than before. None of these match the austerity of our sabbatical, but I feel calmer and more centred through the chaos.

FIND WHAT YOU LOVE; LET IT CONSUME YOU

During our year 'off', I found myself mostly 'on', immersed in whatever I would do to the point where I'd become a mere medium for the work. In giving all of myself to learning meditation, doing a yoga teacher's training course or writing a novel, I was infinitely more satisfied than lounging at a beach or seeing a storied castle as a passive observer. Since coming back, I've started to see my corporate job as a tool to express my full potential as a person rather than an activity to get material rewards from and that has made it a fulfilling, almost spiritual endeavour.

EVOLUTION, THEN INVOLUTION

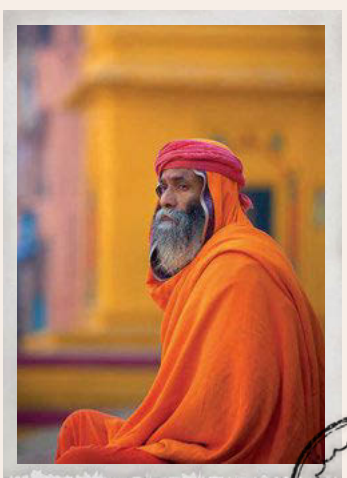
After our sabbatical, I've become more and more of a believer of the Yoga Sutras' [the founding principles of Ashtanga yoga] ethos that man's purpose is first evolution, then involution. We must push ourselves to stretch, grow and experience the world; then detach from it. Our journey followed this pattern. In the beginning, we were incredibly excited to be on the road — meeting strangers, swapping travel stories, discovering new places and hiking tough trails. As the months progressed, we went more and more inward. Sitting in silence became more rewarding than seeing cathedrals and historic villages. Meditation replaced conversation.

Back home, we aren't fully out of the rat race but a new, almost imperceptible internal radar steers us back to silence whenever we go particularly off-track. The results have been magical. In the course of a year, we got married, had a baby, I got my first worldwide book deal, then my first C-level job, and Kerry also made rapid strides in her career — none of which we could have planned for before because we would have been too distracted running around in banal circles we'd drawn for ourselves. If you've got a half-packed bag at the back of your closet, I'd suggest you take it out now. ●



Karan Bajaj's novel *The Seeker* (Penguin Random House India), is out now

> *"We followed the road, and the right thing to do emerged spontaneously from within us"*





ORIGINAL **SIN**

An artisanal revolution is taking the world of Indian chocolate, and it's delicious. ***Divrina Dhingra*** *indulges*

Passion, obsession and a near-encyclopaedic knowledge of their subject (and a need to share said knowledge) is the calling card of any artisan food-maker. Your average chocolate chef ventures further down the rabbit hole still, spending sleepless nights worrying about the cacao bean harvest and countless hours whipping the kitchen counter into a sticky mess to temper the chocolate just right. And their dedication is paying off: chocolate, like beer and cheese before it, is the new blip on the Indian gourmet radar.

So what is it about chocolate that is churned out in small batches and crafted in personal kitchens that renders the store-bought alternative quite unspecial? It's a purer form, simply. Chocolate is, technically speaking, really only cacao beans and sugar; milk, cocoa butter (already found in the beans), emulsifiers, flavours and crunchy bits are all for added interest. Handcrafted chocolate goes back to the bare-bones processes — time, temperature, grinding and elbow grease are all that are used to turn the beans into bars.

The big cities seem inundated with bakers and confectioners, but a maker of artisanal chocolate is still a hunt away. In New Delhi, Mandakini Gupta, 33, the force behind the you-only-know-it-if-you're-in-the-know **Smitten Bakery and Patisserie** (*Tel: +91 98100 10735*), is one, and her chocolates belie the fact that she's new to the craft, having begun selling only over Christmas last year.

"I had been thinking about it for a while, but was previously obsessed with bread," Gupta says. "These are unforgiving foods to make, and one of them in my life is enough at a time." Working out of her modestly sized kitchen, using a minimal amount of equipment, she turns out petite bars that are studded with roasted hazelnuts, coffee beans and figs, orange peel or candied chilli, all precisely placed by hand to ensure that each bite is interesting. She uses dark — 65 per cent cocoa — Belgian chocolate, which she then tempers by hand, a process that is laborious but essential if chocolate is to have its characteristic shine and snap. For her

"labour of love", Gupta is rewarded with a steady stream of orders from people who've either tried them and are hooked, or want to give them away as presents. She ends up making 50 bars a week, all on order. Each bar is wrapped in colourful printed paper (Gupta has 12 prints that she uses in rotation), inspired by one of her artisanal chocolate heroes, New York's Mast Brothers Chocolate Makers. Putting the art into artisanal is slow, careful work — Gupta taught herself to wrap using an instructional video on Vimeo, and a bar of Cadbury's Dairy Milk for practice.

Further south, in a small corner of Auroville in Pondicherry, **Mason & Co Chocolate** (*Masonchocolate.com*), run by longtime Aurovillians Fabian Bontems, 30, and Jane Mason, 35, is crafting chocolate that is delicious and 100 per cent Indian, from bean to bar. "I moved to India from Bali, where I was working as a raw food chef, and I couldn't eat the chocolate available here because I'm vegan. So for a year I just didn't eat any," confesses Mason. "Then I began making my own by ordering raw cocoa powder and cocoa butter online, and it became quite popular."

That led her to explore a steadier source of raw materials close to home. Turns out, India is among the larger growers of cacao beans in the world, and Indian beans, Mason explains, have more acidic, fruity notes, which they try to highlight in their bars. At present, the company offers seven locally sourced, organic varieties (Mason's favourite is the sea salt flavour; Bontems prefers the 75 per cent dark with cacao chips), which have won them a loyal following (and a mention on the design archive blog Packaging of the World for their wrapping) that is steadily growing. Their largest order till date, came last year at Diwali, from a woman in Chennai who ordered 450 bars, and they're fairly certain that this year's festival season will set new records.

And they're intent on giving back, too. So although currently cacao is grown primarily as a commercial cash crop (for the likes of chocolate giant Cadbury), they are hoping to change that. "We are working with the farmers to get them to grow and process the beans for taste. The goal is to eventually set up a cooperative," Mason says. She and Bontems believe strongly in fair trade and an ethical business model. "There is a definite trend of people becoming aware of where their food comes from. There is empowerment in knowing that what you're eating is good for you as well as for the supply chain."

Eco-con chocolate has another fervent propounder in Mysore. **Earth Loaf Artisan & Raw Soul Food**'s (*Earthloaf.co.in*) product is ethical and delicious, not to mention that being raw chocolate, it falls into that hard-to-resist category of superfood. David Belo, 28 and Angelika Anognostou, 39, were bartenders who mixed drinks in some of London's hippest watering holes, before deciding to move to India and craft pretty bars of good-for-you sin.



SMITTEN BAKERY AND PATISSERIE



EARTH LOAF ARTISAN & RAW SOUL FOOD



MASON & CO CHOCOLATE



Handcrafted chocolate goes back to the bare-bones processes — time, temperature, grinding and elbow grease

Belo's additional training as an artisanal bread-and-chocolate-maker came in handy when figuring out things like matching the cacao bean to the right sweetener, and deciding which flavours to use. Their signature 72 per cent dark chocolate bars use beans sourced from Karnataka and Kerala, and have interesting additions like organic almonds, sea salt that has been smoked over cacao bean husks, and palm sugar, which is lower on the glycaemic index than white sugar. This being raw chocolate, the beans are not roasted, and when ground, the temperatures are kept relatively low so that none of the health-giving enzymes are lost. "Chocolate is pretty much a perfect food, healthy and full of antioxidants; you don't want to roast away all that goodness. In a way, a chocolate bar can be like a perfume; it's easy to forget that it comes from nature," he says.

Though raw chocolate is healthy and natural, its bitter kick and gritty texture can take some getting used to ("It has the Marmite effect," says Belo, explaining how people either love it or hate it). The brand created their raw chocolate bonbons — chocolate shells filled with creamy centres in Tiramisu and Chai Masala flavours — as the antidote. To maintain vegan rules, the cream in question is stone-ground organic cashew, flavoured with spices or coffee (organic and specially roasted, of course) and sweetened with the signature low-glycaemic sugar — and it's one of their most popular products.

Going by the numbers they're churning, the healthy chocolate is popular with more than just the scores of yoga students who flock to Mysore each year. "Last year at this time we were producing six bars a week; now we make over 800." The best bit is that this is chocolate that you will want to display on your shelves, not hide among the other health foods that carry with them the unmistakable air of hemp and clumpy footwear. Earth Loaf Artisan bars come wrapped in handmade paper with block-printed motifs. "Presentation is so important to us," says Belo. "We want people to see and taste India in every bar."

So there you have it. Lovingly made chocolate that looks good, has a conscience and won't necessarily give you a choked artery. Can we get French fries that stop global warming next? ●

Happy hours

New bar openings to toast this month



THE SECRET GARDEN, DELHI

A new rooftop bar, The Secret Garden, atop GK 1 - M Block's popular Sakley's café boasts an extensive cocktail list, including the curiously named Suspicious Minds — a blend of strawberries, rosemary and Cointreau, soaked overnight in white wine.

Tel: 011 3310 5704





MONKEY BAR, MUMBAI

After launching in Delhi earlier this year, the popular Bengaluru gastropub finally lands in Mumbai. We've already made multiple visits for their Goan chorizo pao, dal pakwan and cool cocktail blends (don't miss the Ginger Rogers, or the cheeky Shazia Imli). The steady flow of '90s jams will coax you to order a few extra drinks and stay longer.

Tel: 022 3015 1853





THE LOST CARAVAN, BENGALURU

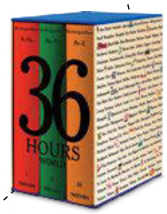
Chessboard floors, rusty metal wall hangings and pop-art portraits promise to make this retro bar a hipster favourite. If you're done with dull glassware, sip your customised cocktail from a metal hip flask or play it safe with the Lost Boy (gin, angostura bitters, tonic and olive).

Tel: 080 4092 4308



BEST BUY

TIME TRAVEL



This new three-volume set from Taschen combines *The New York Times*' super-handy and blissfully-brief '36 Hours' guides. They cover everything from architectural icons in Los Angeles to modernist food in Melbourne. Only trouble? It'll look so good on your coffee table you may not want to leave.



HIGH GROUND

Turn your heel on city woes and escape to greener, clearer and more temperate pastures for a weekend at the new JW Marriott in Mussoorie. Post your Insta updates in a natural mist filter at Perch, their tea lounge which looks out onto the hilly, verdant landscape. Their Wisteria Desk restaurant has cascading branches of its namesake flower, and offers delicious Italian fare seasoned with herbs from their greenhouse. Finally, head to L'Occitane's luxurious Cedar Spa to have the week's stress massaged away.

Marriott.com

— RESHMA RAJIWDEKAR

DISH OF THE MONTH

One of Mumbai's finest veggie digs, Quattro Ristorante is working some molecular gastronomy magic on classic Italian dishes — we've fallen hard for their deconstructed tiramisu.

Quattroristorante.com



LUNCH BAKE

Mumbai's new pizzeria Crave, dressed in sunshine yellows and mod black-and-white floors, doles out beautifully crisp thin-crust stone-oven baked pies. Their flavours range from the meaty Italian Job (with prosciutto and arugula) to Indian-inspired varieties that make good use of seekh and shammi kebab cuts. We also recommend the generously-stuffed Fungi Town with a mushroom and ricotta patty that makes a (surprisingly) strong case for vegetarian burgers.

Tel: 022 30151057



WISH LIST

WONDER LAND

Three ways to build a storybook home



FOR THE BEDROOM

Surround yourself with AA Living's cutesy rabbit-print pillows (*Aa-living.com*). Or try Bandit Queen's Dione bed linen; the soft white cottons with embroidered poetry are made for contemplative nights.

Banditqueen.in

FOR THE KITCHEN

Maison 15, a new home décor store in Delhi, has cool-to-the-touch crockery in shades of white, and charming birdcage-print wallpaper by Ashford House.

Tel: 011 2410 6086





FOR THE LIVING ROOM

Hermes' Perfume de la Maison collection has created three beautiful objects — an origami horse, a smooth pebble, and a modernist candle holder — that carry really unique scents. Wet weather, anyone?

Hermes-it.in

TOP TABLE



Celebrity chef Masaharu Morimoto, the first executive chef of Manhattan's celeb-frequented Nobu, decamped some years ago, and now heads the team at Wasabi, a modern Japanese restaurant at the Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi.

Wasabi has a reputation for the freshest sushi in town, but don't overlook Nobu classics like the Black Cod in Miso: the fish is marinated in sake and miso broth for three days. Try not to finish it in three minutes.

Tajhotels.com



COMPILED BY SIMRAN BHALLA


PAYAL KHANDWALA, ELLE'S AISHWARYA SUBRAMANYAM AND ANJHULA MYA BAIS


ASHITA MISQUITTA AND DIANA PENTY


RIDDHIKA JESRANI AND PARMESH SHAHANI

"I've been supporting the cause since I started my line. The carnival is such a great way of spreading awareness"

— PAYAL KHANDWALA


SAUDAMINI MATTU AND SANDEEP KHOSLA


UJJWALA RAUT


KAYKASSHAN PATEL


AISHWARYA NAIR


DEVIEKA BHOJWANI AND RASHMI UDAY SINGH

LUXURY BRANDS

Louis Vuitton, Bulgari, BlueStone, Chanel, Christian Louboutin, Tod's, Hermès, Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers, Gucci, Red Blue & Yellow

MUMBAI **EDITION**

The final leg of the ELLE Carnival For A Cause brought a mix of fashion and fun

After successful runs in Delhi and Bengaluru, ELLE's Carnival For A Cause came to a close with a last pit stop in Mumbai. The city's cool crowd gathered at the Taj Mahal Palace for an afternoon filled with great company, music, dancing and shopping. Gaurav Pokhariyal, general manager at the Taj Mahal Palace, said, "We're proud to join hands with ELLE in their fight against breast cancer. It gives us immense pleasure to be able to support such an important cause and help bring about greater awareness." The guests indulged in plenty of retail therapy, especially since high-street brands and luxe designer labels were on massive discounts. They broke away from the racks only to get express manicures (courtesy the Taj Salon) or have their Tarot cards read by Kavita Bhagat and Shambhavi Chhugani. Meanwhile, DJ Costantino Francorsi played a string of chart toppers. Fittingly, the retro-diner-themed carnival had mini burgers on the loaded buffet. Another highlight? Bottomless cocktails, courtesy Grey Goose, Peroni and Sula Vineyards.

Proceeds from sales go to toward the Ogaan Cancer Foundation in association with the Women's Cancer Initiative (TATA Memorial Hospital).


ANINDITA NAYAR, NARENDRA KUMAR AND IRA DUBEY

NEERAJ LELE AND SANTOSH K/CLICK ART MUMBAI


ANIL AND SABINA CHOPRA


VIKRAM BAWA AND JATIN KAMPANI


NIMRAT KAUR

> *This is my second time at the carnival, and it's really nice to be back here, It's all for such a great cause*
>
> — NIMRAT KAUR


HARESH AND SONAL SHAH


PARVEEN DUSANJ


MARTINA ISELLA


OGAAN'S PRASHISH MORE AND DR JAISHREE SHARAD

ALCOHOL PARTNERS

Grey Goose
Peroni
Sula Wines


GAURAV GUPTA AND MANDIRA BEDI



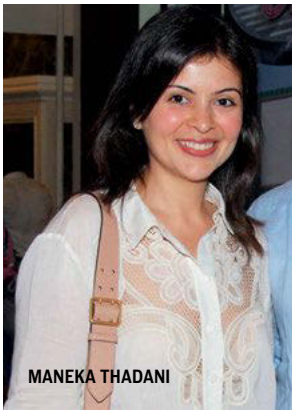
STAR COCKTAIL

The favourite mix of the evening was Three Good Things: a blend of Grey Goose vodka and raspberry purée, with a splash of lemon juice and ginger ale


KARAN BHOJWANI AND LIZA GOLDEN

> *I love the carnival because it brings everyone together under one roof and creates a joyous, light-hearted atmosphere*
>
> — GAURAV GUPTA


MARIO GALLARINI


MANEKA THADANI


AD AND SABINA SINGH



OGAAN'S SONIA BAJAJ AND ARCHANA PILLAI


CECILIA OLDNE


OGAAN'S GAURAV MASHRUWALA AND PRIYADARSHINI KOHLI


RAMAN LAMBA

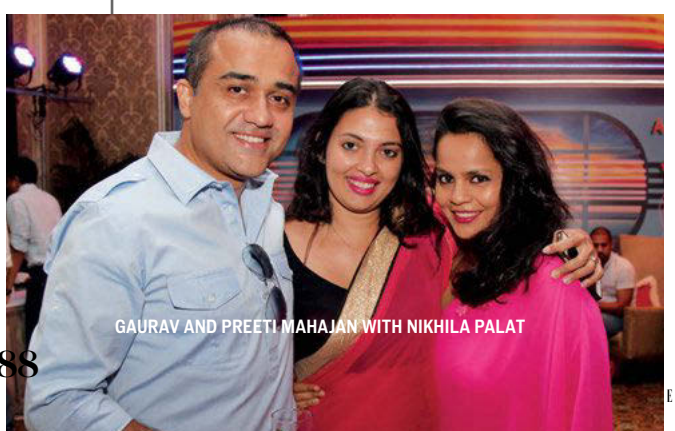

BEENU BAWA


AJOY ADVANI, KARISHMA BAJAJ AND KRSNA MEHTA


AMITABH NANDA AND CLINT FERNANDES


WALUSCHA DE SOUSA, COLSTON JULIAN AND APARNA BADLANI


SRIMOYI BHATTACHARYA WITH SOURABH CHATTOPADHYAY


GAURAV AND PREETI MAHAJAN WITH NIKHILA PALAT

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ANAVILA MISRA


OGAAN'S PRAMITI MADHAVJI


FARROKH CHOTHIA, SURESH BHOJWANI, NISHA KHETAN AND VIKRAM RAIZADA

"I think the carnival is a great way of supporting breast cancer awareness and it makes designer clothes so affordable"

— ANAVILA MISRA


POOJA DADLANI AND SHYAM IYER

ADDRESS BOOK

Kavita Bhagat (Tarot Card Reader): 098200 80562

Shambhavi Chhugani (Tarot Card Reader): 098902 49456

Ami Kothari (Kiddies Corner): 098200 28730

Photo studio
Manasi Sawant
(Photographer): 099673 14845

Costantino Francorsi
(DJ): 098211 58252

Express Manicure
+ Gel nails (Taj Salon):
022 6665 3366

Reproscan: 022 2490 4901


MALINI AGARWAL


NIMISH SHAH


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Monica Lakhmana
Morphe
Mrinalini
munkee.see.munkee.doo
Myoho by Kiran and Meghna
N&S GAIA by Sidharth Sinha
Nachiket Barve
Nalandda Bhandari
Namrata Joshipura
Nappa Dori
Narendra Kumar
Neeru Kumar
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Nishka Lulla
Nitya Bajaj
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KANIKA VASUDEVA, NISHA AND NEHA SAREEN



ON THE COVER

Bottega Veneta Shop No 8, Palladium Mall, Phoenix Shoppers Walk Way, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 6615 2291. **Kenzo** *Kenzo.com*. **Nirav Modi** ITTS House, Saibaba Marg, Kalaghoda, Fort, Mumbai. Tel: 022 6752 2000.

FASHION

11.11/eleven eleven A-18, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi. Tel: 011 2685 0745.

A **adidas Originals** Oberoi Mall, Western Express Highway, Goregaon (E), Mumbai. Tel: 022 4003 6773. **Aldo** Grand Galleria, Phoenix Mills, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2496 9493. **Alexander McQueen** *Alexandermcqueen.com*. **Alpana Gujral** 16 Feroz Gandhi Road, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. Tel: 0 98100 43776. **Alpana Neeraj** Building no 5, First Floor, Shiv Durga Vihar, Charmwood Village, Faridabad. Tel: 0 98101 98772. **am:pm** by **Ankur & Priyanka Modi** The Kila, Seven Style Mile, Kalka Das Marg, Mehrauli, New Delhi. Tel: 011 2664 2993. **Anita Ko** *Anitako.com*. **Anmol Jewellers** Shop No. 2, Kakad Palace, Turner Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 6133 3444. **Ashdeen** B 12, First Floor, Green Park Main, New Delhi. Tel: 0 99993 88442 **Atsu** A+M Studio, 11 Dayal Bagh, Surajkund Road, Faridabad. Tel: 0129 4092 486.

B **Bluestone** *Bluestone.com*. **Bodice** 2 Hauz Khas Village, 1st Floor, New Delhi. Tel: 0 96500 71122 **Bulgari** 142 Ground Floor, DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4053 8623.

C **Caratlane** *Caratlane.com*. **Cartier** Ethos Summit, Cross Road 2, Nariman Point, Mumbai. Tel: 0 92167 09108. **Céline** *Celine.com*. **Charles & Keith** 13 Grand Galleria, Phoenix Mills, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2498 0106. **Charlotte Olympia** *Charlotteolympia.com*. **Chloé** *Chloe.com*. **Cecile d'Ascoli** *Exclusively.com*. **Christian Louboutin** 111, DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4101 7111. **Christophe Sauvat** *Christophesauvat.com*.

D **Diacolor** 305, DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4141 4100. **Dior** The Oberoi, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4615 1796. **Dhruv Kapoor** 818 Udyog Vihar, Phase 5, Gurgaon. Tel: 0124 423 5266. **Dolce&Gabbana** *Dolcegabbana.com*. **Donna Karan** *Donnakaran.com*. **DRVV** by **Dhruv Kapur** 305 Forest lane, Sainik Farms, New Delhi. Tel: 011 2222 2222. **Dwarkadas Chandumal Jewellers** Shop No. 196, Zaveri Bazaar Mumbadevi Road, Bhuleshwar, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2240 0631.

E **Eddie Borgo** *Eddieborgo.com*. **Entice** 102, Queens Diamond Building 5, Mama Parmanand Marg, Opera House, Girgaon, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2362 8016.

F **Fabergé** *Faberge.com*. **Farah Khan Fine Jewellery** 36, Turner Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2651 3764. **Fendi** 143 DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4604 0777. **Forevermark** 26, Aurobindo Place Market, Hauz Khas, New Delhi India. Tel: 011 2686 8881. **Furla** F-6, Palladium Mall, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 4347 2820.

G **Ganjam** 337 DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4660 9000. **Gehna Jewellers** 5 Kakad Palace, Turner Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 6692 5100. **Ghanasingh Be True** 211 Anant Bhavan, Waterfield Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2646 5500. **Guapa** 168, First Floor, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi. Tel: 0 98112 96760. **Gucci** 1 Galleria, Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai. Tel: 022 3027 7060.

H **Hermès** Bharat Insurance Building, Horniman Circle, Fort, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2271 7400. **Hublot** *Hublot.com*.

I **Ikai** by **Ragini Ahuja** 252-A, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4109 7655.

J **Jaeger LeCoultre** Johnson Watch Co, 243 DLF Emporio Mall, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4609 8205. **Jaipur Jewels** G/1, Swapnalok Building, Opposite Priyadarshini Park, Grant Road Mumbai. Tel: 022 2369 8933. **Jet Gems** 1, Sandesh, Off Linking Road, 28th Road, Bandra(W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2644 2955. **Jimmy Choo** 3 The Galleria, Trident Nariman Point, Mumbai. Tel: 022 3027 7070.

K **Kaleekal** Melange, 33 Altamount Road, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2353 4492. **Kallol Datta 1955** AD 37, Sector 1, Salt Lake, Kolkata. Tel: 033 2321 4528. **Kiran Uttam Ghosh** 54 Shalimar Apartments, 42B Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata. Tel: 033 2422 7773. **Koovs** *Koovs.com*.

L **Label Ritu Kumar** Unit T-10 B, Palladium Mall, 3rd Floor Phoenix Mills Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 6666 9901. **Lecoanet Hemant** A-22/23 Gurgaon Technology Park, Sector 34, Infocity, Gurgaon. Tel: 0124 4421 5300. **Louis Vuitton** 101/102 DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4669 0000. **Lovebirds** 32 Meherchand Market, New Delhi. Tel: 0 98100 36992.

M **Mahesh Notandass Fine Jewellery** 898 Notan Plaza, Turner Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2655 9000. **Maison Margiela** *Maisonmargiela.com* **Manubhai Jewellers** Lok Manya Tilak Road, Borivali (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2899 2042. **Maticevski** *Tonimaticevski.com*. **MBj** M 63, M Block Market, Greater Kailash, New Delhi. Tel: 0 98108 31950. **Michael Kors** Palladium Mall, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 4004 8040. **Mirari** DLF Emporio, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 0 98100 06000. **Marni** *Marni*.

com. **Mary Katrantzou** Le Mill, 2 Meherabad Apartments, Warden Road, Breach Candy, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2368 4463. **Mytheresa** *Mytheresa.com*.

N **NAC Jewellers** 20, North Usman Road, Thiyagaraya Nagar, Chennai. Tel: 044 4399 6666. **Narayan Jewellers** 15/16 & 18, Avanti Chambers, Alkapuri, Vadodara. Tel: 0265 232 8200. **Nike** Unit No 4, Skyzone, Phoenix Mills, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 3060 0425. **Nishka Lulla** *Perniaspopupshop.com*

O **OM Jewellers** LT Road, Borivali (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 6158 7000. **ORRA** 58/60 Jariwala Mansion, Hughes Road, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2368 1610.

P **Payal Khandwala** Grants Building, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2283 6707. **Payal Pratap** 10/11 Gurukul Industrial Estate, Faridabad, Haryana. Tel: 0129 9409 2300. **Popley & Sons** 125 Planet Building, Turner Road, Bandra (W) Mumbai. Tel: 022 2642 2290.

R **Rara Avis** by **Sonal Verma** 253 Shahpur Jat, 4, New Delhi. Tel: 0 98108 40487. **Ritu Kumar** Unit 1 & 2, Raghuvanshi Mills, Lower Parel Mumbai. Tel: 022 6666 9901. **Rohit Gandhi +Rahul Khanna** E-56, Sector 8, Noida. Tel: 0120 434 6773.

S **Sabyasachi** Ador House, 6 K Dubash Marg, Kalaghoda, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2204 4774. **Saint Laurent** *Ysl.com*. **Salvatore Ferragamo** 121/221 DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4660 9082. **Sanskar** by **Sonam Dubal** 380, 1st Floor, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi. Tel: 011 2649 6380 **Second Floor Studio** Shahpur Jat, Siri Fort, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4142 0324. **Shingora** HC 28, Phase VI, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab. Tel: 0161 502 6815. **Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers** *Shreerajmahaljewellers.com*. **Simone Rocha** *Simonerocha.com*. **Stella McCartney** Le Mill 2 Meherabad Apartments, Warden Road, Breach Candy, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2368 4463. **Swarovski** 142, DLF Promenade Mall, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4604 0924. **Swati Kalsi** *Swatikalsi.com*

T **Tanishq** High Street Phoenix, Level 1, High street Phoenix Skyzone, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 1800 108 1100. **The Corner** *Thecorner.com*. **The Line** *The-line.in*. **Titan Raga** 199, Opposite Shoppers Stop, Linking Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 6671 4800. **Tom Ford** *Tomford.com*. **Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri** Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2204 2545.

V **Vanilla Moon** 423, DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4606 0940. **VegaVaan** by **Karma** *Karmadesigns.co.in* **Versace** 231-141, 1st Floor, DLF Emporio, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, Delhi. Tel: 011 4604 0711. **Victoria Beckham** *Victoriabeckham.com*.

Z **Zara** G1/G2 Palladium Mall, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 4347 3850. **Zoya - A TATA Product** 369 Linking Road, Dev Niburu, Linking Road, Khar (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2648 8577.

BEAUTY

B **Benefit** Sephora, 51 Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4134 9797. **Bourjois Paris** At Lifestyle stores nationwide. Tel: 011 4209 0016/ 022 6666 9203.

C **Chanel** 2 Palladium Mall, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 4004 8534. The Imperial, 1 Janpath, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4111 6840. **Clinique** S10 Palladium Mall, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 4347 3773.

I **Inglot** B65 Linking Road, Santacruz (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2605 9638.

K **Kiehl's** G13 Ambience Mall, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4087 0067. Palladium Mall, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 6671 2837.

L **L'Oréal Paris** At Shoppers Stop stores nationwide. Tel: 022 2643 5424/ 011 4609 8300/ 080 6664 1200. **L'Oréal Paris** The Boutique, 10B Palladium Mall, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2491 0044. **Lakmé** At Lifestyle stores nationwide. Tel: 011 4209 0016/022 6666 9203. **Lancôme** 16, Palladium Mall, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 6534 0356. **L'Oréal Professionnel** at L'Oréal Professionnel salons nationwide.

M **M.A.C** 33 Melange, Altamount Road, Mumbai. Tel: 022 2352 1097. Dynamix Mall, JVPD Petit Scheme, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 2670 5603. G49 Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi. Tel: 0 931365 0722. **Make Up For Ever** Sephora, 51 Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4134 9797. **Matrix** At Matrix salons nationwide. **Maxfactor** At Lifestyle stores nationwide. Tel: 011 4209 0016/ 022 6666 9203. **Maybelline New York** At Lifestyle stores nationwide. Tel: 022 6666 9203/ 011 4209 0016.

O **O.P.I** Nail Bar, Juice Hair, Grace Classic, Khar (W), Mumbai. Tel: 022 6593 8454.

R **Revlon** At Lifestyle stores nationwide. Tel: 011 4209 0016/ (022) 6666 9203. **Rimmel** Parcos, 2 Grand Galleria, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 3002 5123. 241 DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Tel: 011 4652 9850.

S **Sally Hansen** Parcos, Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway Enclave, Dr Rajkumar Road, Malleswaram (W), Bengaluru. Tel: 080 6728 2222.

Y **YSL** Parcos, 2 Grand Galleria, High Street Phoenix, Lower Parel, Mumbai. Tel: 022 3002 5123.

Z **Za** At Shoppers Stop stores nationwide. Tel: 022 2643 5424/011 4609 8300/080 6664 1200.

LIFESTYLE

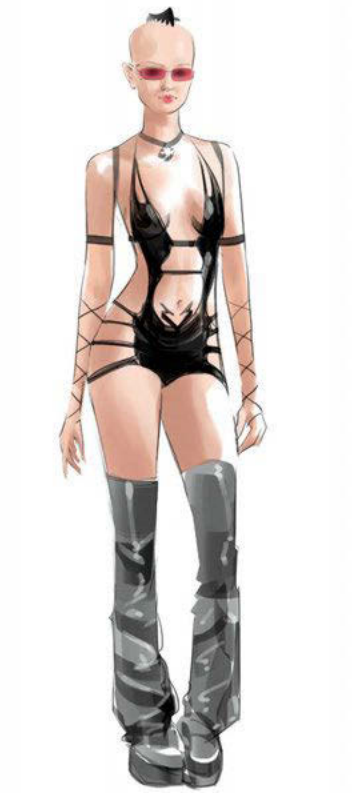
F **FCML** *Fcmlindia.com*.

S **Safomasi** *Safomasi.com*. ●

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astro

By **BERNARD FITZWALTER**



CANCER
JUN 22-JUL 22

Although you're constantly encouraged to aim higher, once in a while, you reach a point where you recognise that what you've got is actually pretty good, and you'd like to stay where you are and enjoy it for a while. In theory, it should be the easiest thing to do but bringing your present lifestyle to a halt will require effort.

LEO
JUL 23-AUG 23

You're getting involved in battles from the past. You thought they were over and they really are — but you're digging too deeply into what should be left buried. Are you trying to change history? It can't be done. Early July will show you what you're still arguing over and how small it is. Be generous: step over it, and move on.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEP 22

If you want to make big changes to your life, you have to be prepared to make bold moves. You also have to believe it's the right thing to do because there is no turning back if things go wrong. Should you try making small changes first? No. If this is what your heart truly wants, you won't even think of asking such a question — there's your answer.

LIBRA
SEP 23-OCT 23

The closer you are to achieving your dream, the less attractive it seems. As you worked towards your goal, the thought that you could reach it inspired you. But now that it's almost a reality, you find yourself thinking of mundane things like how much it will cost, how long it will last, and whether you really want it. By the end of July, you may decide that you don't.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22

You're over-thinking a problem and making it more complex than it is. Don't anticipate what other people will say or do; just deal with your own role in the drama. Go with the flow of events, and make decisions that feel right. That may sound dangerously random, but it's probably the safest way.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 23

If your life has a well-established routine (same people doing the same things), you become invisible and need to consciously rediscover and express your true self. You will experience this when a chance encounter creates a new romance. Both of you are far from your usual territory, and that's what draws you to each other.

CAPRICORN
DEC 24-JAN 20

A friend is someone who tells you the truth about yourself even when it's not what you want to hear. But it takes a while for that level of trust to be established. It may seem like someone is being a little too open but don't be surprised by this; it's proof of their concern, so try to see it positively, if you can.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18

If a romance has no passion, it fades and dies; but if it has too much, it can soon grow into something more serious even when you want to prevent it. In this case, that perfect stage when you want more from a relationship but at the same time feel you could leave it without heartbreak may only last a few weeks. By mid-July, there will be crucial questions to answer.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20

All Pisceans have the remarkable ability to take on any role and play it well even if they have no real idea of what they're doing. You will be doing quite a lot of that in the next few weeks, and with great results; but it is easy to go too far, especially if you are improvising. The line between success and failure is a thin one, so be careful.

ARIES
MAR 21-APR 21

You feel it's time for a new start, and that's good. You also feel that there are a lot of things from your past that you'd like to hold on to, which is understandable. But it's not as good an idea as you think it is. Remind yourself that the words 'new' and 'different' should mean exactly that, and don't repeat past mistakes.

TAURUS
APR 22-MAY 21

When you get an opportunity that's too good to refuse, take it. The only drawback is that this ticket to success is for one person only, which means that an important relationship, which also forms a big part of your hopes for the future, may have to be put aside. It's all about prioritising and choosing the actual over the potential. Put yourself first.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUN 21

You enjoy playing with possibilities but you're often reluctant to turn them into reality. This happens because you change your mind with every new idea and never reach a definite conclusion. This month, however, simply putting your thoughts into words makes things happen. The game gets faster and more serious. It's exciting, but risky.

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NUMEROLOGY

By **CHERYL LEE TERRY**

Numerology is a way to determine the cycles of your life by analysing the numbers in your birth date. To calculate your personal key number, use the following method: just add the day and month of your birth date. Here, November 28 is the sample date:

Day	28
Month	11
	39

Add 3 and 9 and reduce the sum to a single digit: 3 + 9 = 12 and 12 (1 + 2) = 3. 3 is your key number, which you will keep for life.

1

YOU'RE CONTEMPLATIVE, so indulge in constructive daydreaming and reflect on the past. Expect romance on the 2nd, but after the 12th, be forgiving in an argument as making up will be worth it. The week of the 20th might make you anxious so be clear about your priorities and have high standards. Between the 23rd and 30th, you can seal a love affair or revive an old passion. You're on the verge of breaking out of this year's intense cycle, so don't settle for less than you deserve.

2

YOU'RE GETTING OVER A heartbreak or trying to repair an old friendship but there's good news, too. Your work and social life is sizzling, and you can impress the boss and an important client, or finish a major project. Stay flexible around the 14th and don't argue. Honest chats with loved ones are the perfect antidote for stress on the weekend of the 23rd. All relationships are on the brink of change. Let go of an unhealthy friendship and on the 30th, give love a chance.

3

A FAMILY ISSUE GAINS priority by the 3rd. Share your feelings with someone you trust. You could have a breakthrough that leaves you feeling free and happy. Around the 14th, don't let judgemental people and their opinions affect you. After the 23rd, you will meet new people and possibly, find a soul mate, as a mutual attraction can turn serious. Make your moves on the weekend of the 26th, and expect to fall in love.

4

JULY BEGINS ON A contentious note and strong numerological combinations indicate that with diplomacy, you can settle a conflict or persuade someone to follow your lead. Difficult numerological aspects around the 13th and 19th, can cause chaos, but be careful and avoid emotional confrontations as this will take you away from your dreams and ambitions. After the 23rd, you are in a flirtatious mood and want to enjoy life. A love affair grows more serious after the 28th and your heart will know for certain if it's true love.

5

SENSITIVE VIBRATIONS between the 12th and 19th mean someone could hurt your feelings, but don't fight back as time will remove this person from your life. Don't let July's moody energy get to you. Exercise, volunteer for a community project and spend time with friends and family. The week of the 20th, a romantic encounter could add shine to this tedious month. After the 25th, a committed romance becomes more serious, but on the 31st, spontaneous, wild vibrations say stay flexible, and you could have the time of your life.

6

JULY IS REPLETE WITH creative vibrations, but around the 1st or 6th, a personality clash or creative differences will leave you disillusioned. The week of the 13th, everyone seems intent on getting on your nerves, so spend time alone until the 23rd, after which, superb numerological aspects indicate you'll receive good news. This is a golden opportunity to toss around new ideas and share your concepts with the boss or colleagues. Single? After the 25th, don't waste time obsessing about what others think and give that new guy you met a chance.

7

JULY HAS A FEW DIFFICULT moments but you're shedding responsibilities and relationships that no longer work. On the 2nd, make a list of what you want to accomplish and rearrange your priorities. Around the 10th and 14th, tempers will flare but if you quietly back away, you'll avoid a confrontation and look like the one in charge. By the 19th, you may consider giving up on men, love and romance. Don't. The 25th holds the promise of new love, old passions or an ego-boosting flirtation.

8

DESPITE NO COOPERATION from others, your personal power is returning, and you realise that you no longer care about certain people or situations. Between the 12th and 19th, people's erratic and negative behaviour puts your loyalty and patience to the test. Relieve the stressful vibrations by making fitness a summer goal and focus on that. By the 22nd, give into an impulsive urge, call old friends and organise a party. Single? You are over an old crush and freedom feels great! Committed? The weekend of the 25th is perfect for reconnecting with your soul mate.

9

LUCKY YOU, YOUR personal numerological aspects cut July's harshness. But, expect domestic discord around the 1st, 6th and 12th. Relationships that are fundamentally sound will thrive but by the 19th, flaws in weak relationships will become obvious. Take a hard look at your life and consider choices that may be difficult but necessary. On the 26th, take a break and have a great day at the spa. Single? Someone from your past is holding a torch for you but it's over and you are ready for someone new.



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ELLE LOVES

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